FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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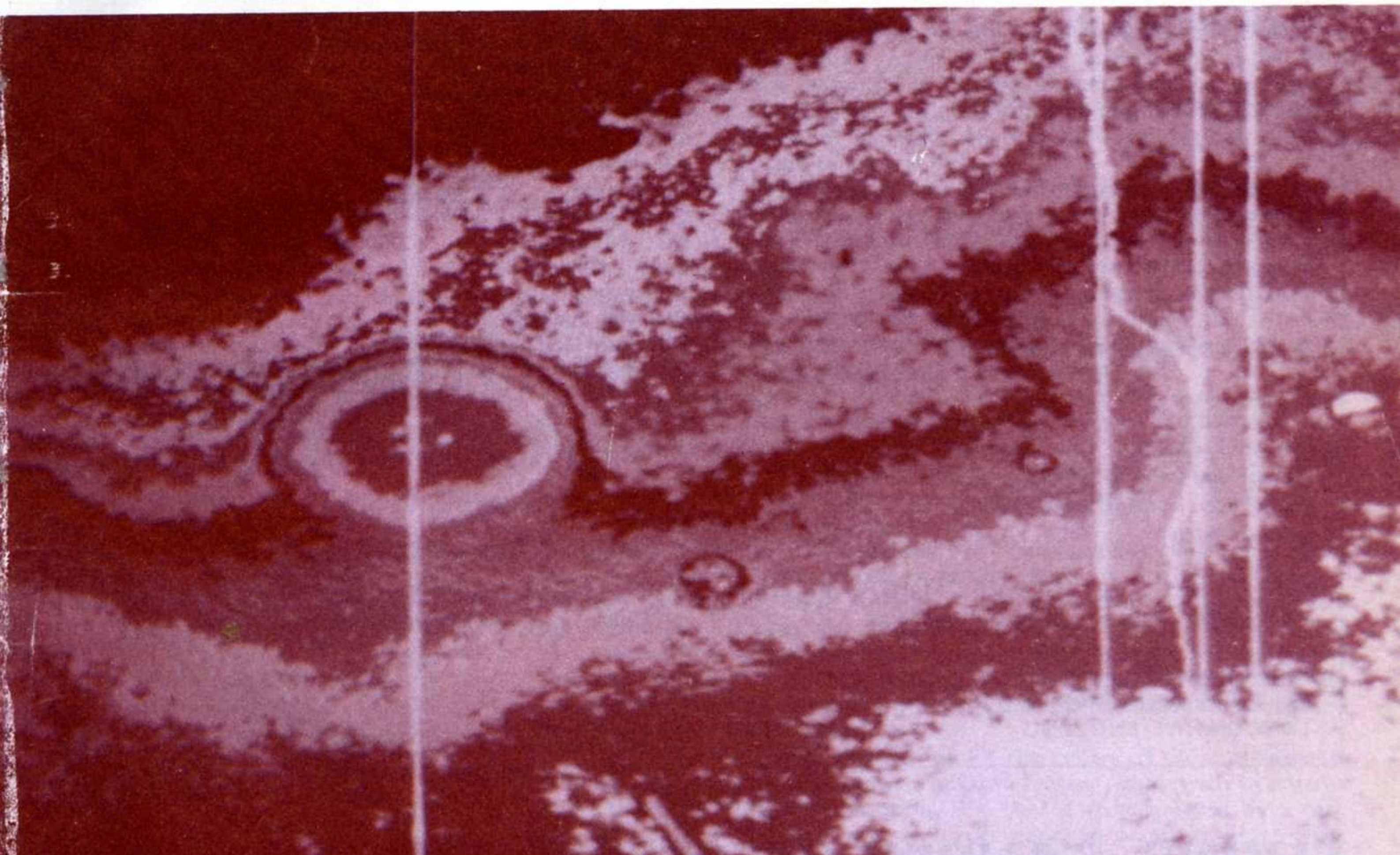

Computerised UFO photograph!

DATA PROCESSING TECHNIQUES IN UFO PHOTOGRAPH ANALYSIS

See page 12

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW
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BAD NEWS... AND GOOD

WE LEARN from that bastion of radical journalism, *The Guardian*, in its issue of Thursday April 8, 1976, from a report by Paris correspondent Walter Schwarz, headlined *No news is good news?* that "Frenchmen who fear flying saucers may be reassured by an official report which claims that nobody has been traumatized or had his physical balance disturbed by the objects."

It seems that the French Defence Ministry has reported in its journal on the "...findings of the special research unit set up in 1951 [which] admits it can 'only state the present inability of science to decide one way or another.' "

We are told (shades of Robertson) that "...flying saucers may be real, but present no known threat to France... [while] the origin of the phenomenon remains apparently unsolved... [they] could come from other planets or from 'foreign powers' on earth."

Later it is stated that "...the air force found 80 per cent of the sightings to be 'definitely due to known aerospatial phenomena" and that "it is among the other 20 per cent that the doubt remains. Among photographs published in the report, only one is still unexplained – an object seen over Trinidad Island on January 16, 1958." [Trinidade, we suspect.]

There follows the bald statement: "No sightings have been made by the air force's own aircraft or radar, there are no photographs of landings by unidentified objects..." and the report concluded with the summary: "Thirty per cent of the sighted objects were shaped like a bowl or a circle, 16 per cent like a disc, and 42 per cent were luminous or bright. As for the size of the objects, 'the greatest impression prevailed' – a victory possibly, for the designers of variegated flying saucers."

And so *The Guardian* tip-toes down the centre of the carriageway, brandishing its mixed-up report, acknowledging, as if with eyebrows aloft, that there is a phenomenon, and that it is supported by a very high percentage of unknowns – 20 per cent, to boot, in which "the doubt remains." That is part of the *good news*, for we recall attempts by Project Blue Book to reduce the unknowns to the lowest common possibility, in the realms of 3 or 4 per cent, and our own Ministry of Defence doing even better with even lower (better cooked?) percentages. At the same time the report seeks – *bad news*, this – by the use of carefully phrased passages, to hint that there is no substance to the UFO phenomenon.

Take, for instance, Mr. Schwarz's assertion from reading the report, that nobody has been traumatized, or had his physical balance disturbed: this indicates that someone has either not been doing his homework, or has set out to mislead. One recalls, for example, the shocking effect of abject terror, and complete incontinence in the gendarmerie, that his encounter at Quarouble had on the unfortunate M. Dewilde.

Again, that hoary old veteran, the suggestion that flying saucers

could come from 'foreign powers,' was discussed by us way back in 1965. What kind of responsible power would admit the fact that craft of a foreign power were landing unopposed on their territory, often near to prohibited areas. Furthermore we speculated in 1965 that the controllers of these craft might well find themselves faced with an insuperable recruitment problem, for surely the inexhaustible supplies of 'little men' for the crews must be hard to come by.

However, the most misleading passage is the one about there having been no sightings on radar, or by the air force's own airmen. That, to those who know about these things, is completely untrue, for we had, on February 21, 1974, the word of the French Minister of Defence, M. Robert Galley,* in a *France-Inter* radio interview (which we have on tape) that there *have* been radar "sightings" of UFOs in France, and we do not doubt he had both air-to-air radar interceptions, and ground radar locatings in mind. For the question posed by reporter Jean-Claude Bourret was: "Monsieur le Ministre, have there been cases in which *Mirage* aircraft have pursued UFOs over France?"

In his reply M. Galley alluded to an important radar sighting in Aquitaine in the 1950s, to other French cases which remained unexplained, to the Caselle Airport (Italy) ground-to-air radar/visual cases, to the modest number of reports by French Air Force pilots, "...even some that are classified."

Perhaps an attempt is now being made by the French "Establishment" – and this could also be *bad news* – to disabuse French minds of the notions instilled in them by the words of M. Galley; notions that there have been, and are, radar interceptions of UFOs – a reaction on the part of the Establishment which, in Britain, is virtually automatic. (We remember all too well the notorious *Man Alive* programme in February 1972 when, after your Editor had carefully described the Bentwaters/Lakenheath USAF/RAF ground-to-air, air-to-air radar sightings, with visual confirmation by ground observers, pilots and aircrew,† he was followed soon afterwards by a serving officer who blandly denied that there were any radar sightings by the services.

So why should the French services suddenly appear to get cold feet, particularly over the radar sightings? Is it possible that they took a cue from their late president, M. Pompidou, who was on his death bed at the time of the Galley broadcast. We have heard, on good authority, that among his last words to his Minister of Defence were: "Tu ne penses pas que nous avons déjâ assez de m—sur les bras sans parler des soucoupes?" (*"Don't you think we have enough s— on our hands without bringing in the saucers?"*)

When reading through that profound question it is clearly seen that the President didn't *deny* the saucers; merely that he didn't want to have them spoken about. Perhaps that's *good news* after all!

---

* See *French Minister speaks on UFOs* in FSR Vol.20, No.2, 1974.

† A staggering case which was released from the secret list by the late Dr. Edward U. Condon and his USAF-sponsored Colorado University Investigation. The "Condon Committee" couldn't explain this case – and several others – so they concluded that "...further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby..." etc., etc.

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WEIRD "FLYING GLOBE" PHOTOGRAPHS IN ROMANIA

Florin Gheorghiță

Exclusive report to FSR. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton

TRUE scientist that he was, the late and lamented Professor J. McDonald conducted all his analyses of UFO sightings as authentic scientific studies, thereby setting a new high level for research in this field. One very successful example of his work, published in FSR, was the study of the Lakenheath case,[1] which he had already presented as a paper before the American scientists during the celebrated AAAS Symposium in Boston.[2] His minute and detailed analyses of the true facts showed clearly, beyond possibility of refutation, that in the skies over a district in Great Britain there had occurred aerial phenomena of a remarkable degree of strangeness. But, among the details of the case that were inexplicable – even to Ufologists – the feature of the linking up of the two luminous phenomena while in flight seems downright fantastic ("Observers on the ground declared that one white light linked up with the other, and then both vanished, joined together").

This coupling together of luminous flying phenomena has in fact been reported on very numerous occasions, and in the most diverse regions of the world, as will be found on record in the literature of the subject. For example, in my book *O.Z.N.: O Problema Moderna (UFOs: A Present-Day Problem)* I gave an extract from an old Romanian document which describes a similar happening. Nevertheless it seemed that nobody, up till now, had ever succeeded in photographing this type of phenomenon.[3]

1974 brought a great surprise for Romanian readers, with the publication of two articles in our press about local UFO sightings. The large-circulation review *Flacara* (published in the Capital, Bucharest) gave the principal place in its pages to accounts of the collective sighting of February 8, 1974, at Valenii de Munte.[4] In the course of that particular sighting, more than sixty witnesses were able to observe two luminous balls as they met and combined in the air, above the outskirts of a forest. After remaining there stationary for some time, the new unified luminous body moved away at high speed.

The second Romanian press article[5] triggered off a great wave of public interest by giving the first admissions received from a lone student of the UFO problem, who for some years past had been observing and photographing strange luminous aerial phenomena *and even fantastic silhouettes*. But the fact which, right from the outset, has intrigued many people, is that this man has always seen all these interesting things – and photographed them too – at almost precisely the very same spot where, in August 1968, the remarkable photographs of the Cluj UFO were taken by E. Barnes,[6] that is to say, at the very same place, the Baciu Forest, four-and-a-half kilometres from the centre of the town of Cluj, and a few hundred metres distant from the Barnea glade.

The amateur investigator in question, Al. Sift, is 38 years old. A student of Biology, he is employed in a specialized establishment. His interest in the UFO problem had its genesis in a truly fantastic event. It was in 1953, when he was still a student, 17 years old. Being a nature-lover, he used to go for little outings in the Baciu Forest near Cluj. One day, in the middle of the summer, he saw, at some distance from him, a curious luminous globe fall from the sky onto a large bush, and then suddenly vanish among its branches.

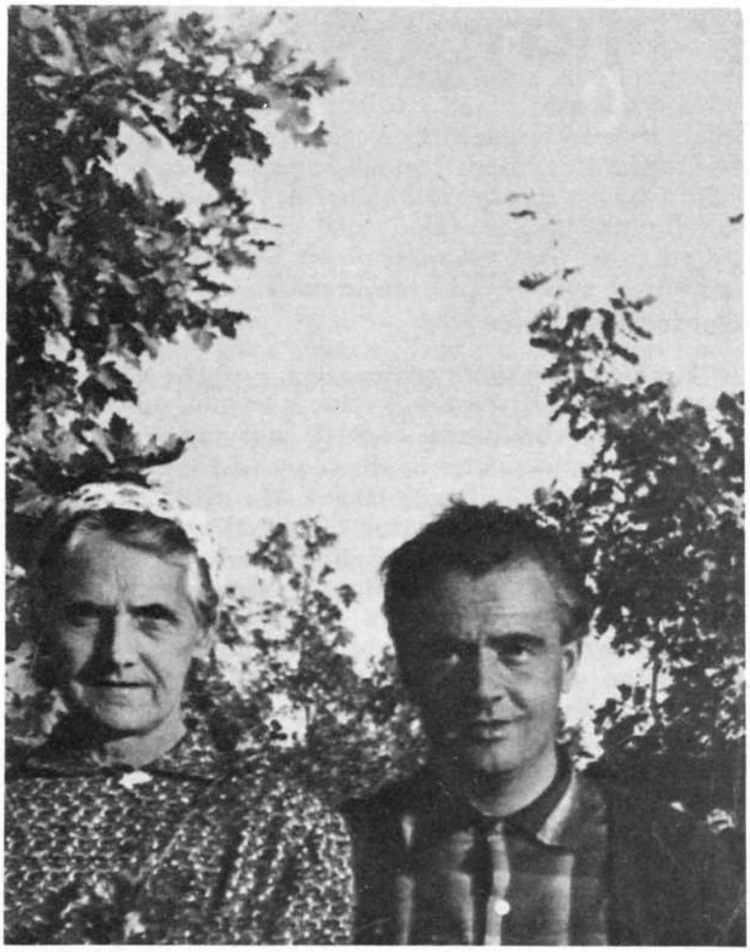
Rushing to the spot, and still seeing nothing there, the young man pushed a stick in among the foliage, hoping to find some traces of what had fallen. But a most disturbing thing then happened...

Sift found he could no longer see the stick. Nor could he any longer see part of his hand. But he felt a tingling sensation throughout the hand, and great heat in the soles of his feet. And then, immediately afterwards, this was followed by the sensation of something cold pressing down upon the whole surface of his body.

Terrified, he fled from the spot. All that evening he suffered from vomiting, and from mental disturbances.

Some years went by, but the young biologist still had the desire to find the key to the strange phenomena that had befallen him on that fine summer's day. And so, in his leisure hours, Sift kept returning to the same spot. And in recent years he has again started seeing the luminous flying phenomena there. So he decided to try to capture them on film. And this aim of his became even stronger when he discovered, on photographs of a purely domestic, family nature, the presence of certain "aerial" things that had not been seen by any of the people present (Photos 1 and 2). And – a staggering fact this – these invisible "things," particularly globes and certain outlines, have continued to appear on many of the photos taken by him.

On more than one hundred occasions over the past five years the biologist declares that he has seen luminous forms flying around at low altitude and some of them landing on the ground. Consequently he has managed to secure a series of photographs and, above all, to make a study of the various manifestations assumed by the phenomena. These



manifestations include movements in a straight line, or in curves, or even in zigzag.

One very important fact that he was able to determine is that, as they approached the ground, the "luminous forms" frequently became smaller. But the most astonishing of all were certain other aspects of the phenomena which he was able not only to observe but to photograph.

For, in a number of cases, as the shapes lost their luminosity, they changed – while still in the air, and at a height of a few metres from the ground – into triangular black boxes.

When the triangular black boxes landed, they left behind them clearly defined triangular markings on the grass.

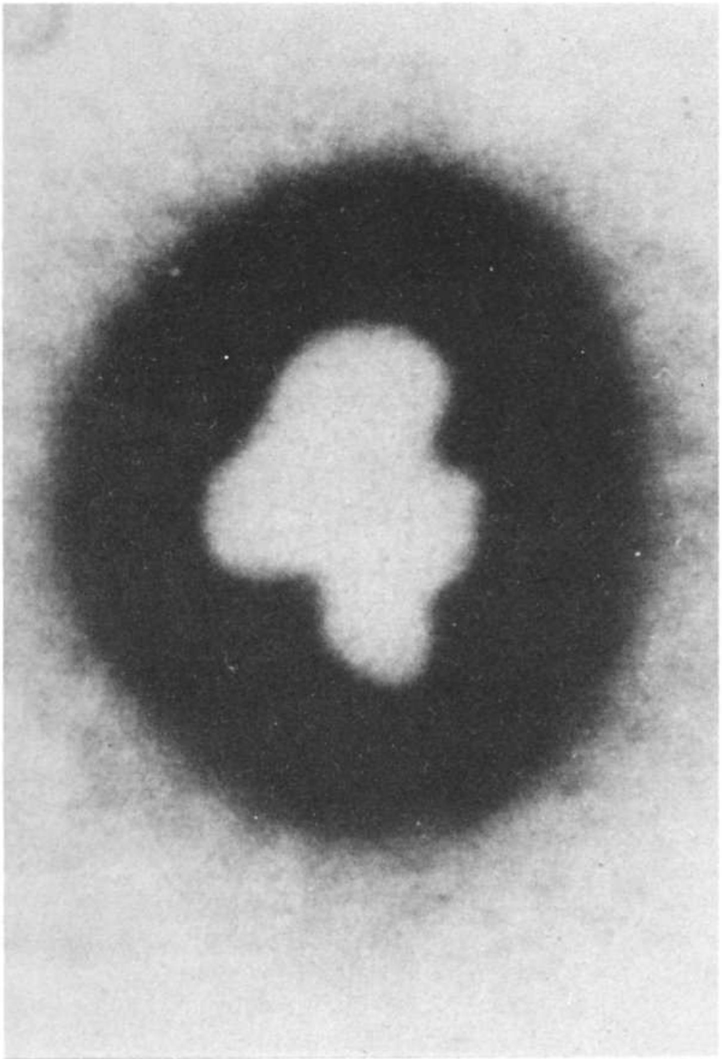
And then the triangular black boxes would vanish suddenly.

There are also certain other disturbing features which the photographs reveal, for during the last few years matters appear to have grown much more complicated.

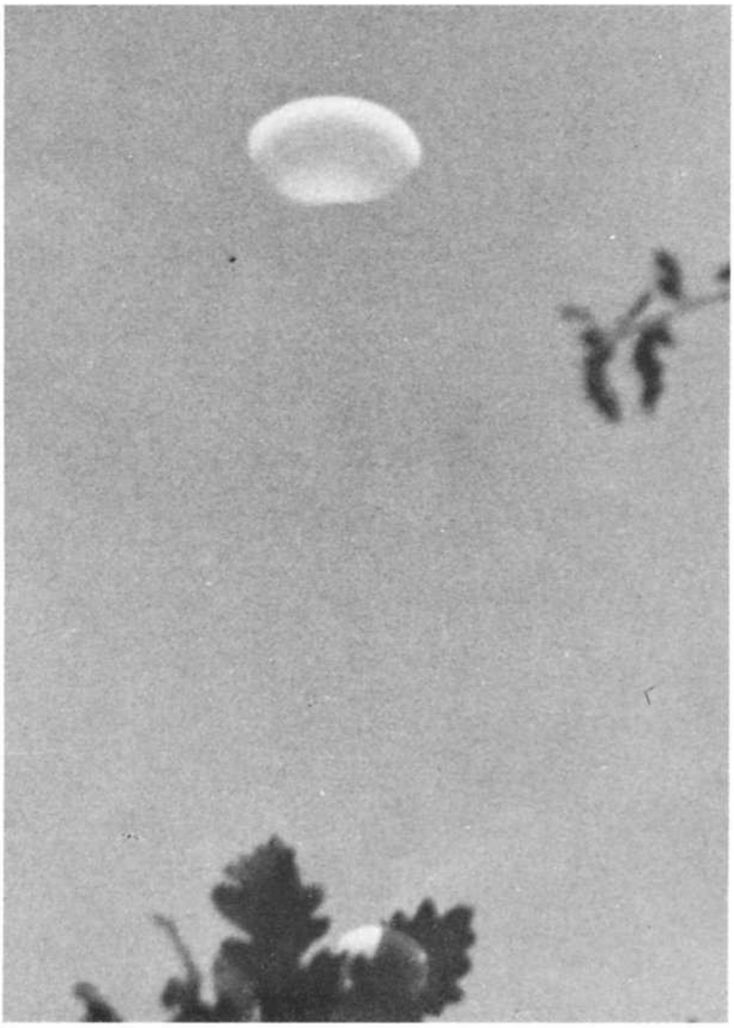
There have been luminous aerial forms, not seen by the human eye, which have appeared this year on photographic film taken by a small group of physicists whom I urged to go to the spot and study these phenomena.

The large, invisible elongated ball which appeared on a photograph taken by a well-known physicist

Left: Photograph 1 (taken September 16, 1969)
Below: Photograph 2



Photograph 3, taken by a well-known physicist



Photograph 4, taken March 10, 1974, showing block halo and four shining globes

(Photo No. 3) is very similar to the ball seen by Sift and his aunt five years earlier, on September 16, 1969, in a colour photograph of members of the family (Photo No. 1).

Subsequently, strange globes, invisible to the eye, have appeared on a number of photographs taken in a certain area of the forest and also in the sky over Cluj. But – and this is perhaps the most staggering thing of all – certain globes seen flying about over certain areas were invisible because of a completely dark halo. Sift even managed on one occasion to photograph a rapid "meeting" between two of the "luminous flying forms." They joined up right before his eyes, at a height of a few tens of metres above him, and then flew off again as one body.

Another time, in a photo taken at random on March 10, 1974, there is a black halo and, concealed in the centre of the halo, are four shining globes – invisible however because they did not reflect the sunlight.

In May 1975 I made contact with Sift. He had maintained silence till then, so I knew nothing of all these matters than had been happening to him but I have now been able to make a close study of his collection of strange photographic images, a collection that is probably unique.

Making my systematic analysis of the material and of the statements made by the various eye-witnesses, I have uncovered new aspects to the UFO problem, and I feel that the time has now come for certain realistic criteria of our present-day Science to be applied to these questions. In the mean-time, however, here are a few conclusions at which I have arrived in my studies and analyses over the past few months.

The great majority of the luminous flying phenomena seen at Cluj by the biologist Sift have angular shapes, and in general their dimensions change as they descend towards the ground. The majority of them fully resemble the luminous phenomena photographed over the American town of Columbus, Ohio, in October 1973.[7] (However, the sketches shown me by Sift, displaying various triangular – and even lamellate forms – date from the years prior to 1973, and in any case Sift knows nothing about the Columbus photographs.)

As they were landing, some of these shapes lost their luminosity and then turned into "black boxes," after which these "black boxes" suddenly became invisible. But from some of Sift's photographs it is possible to see that there was something contained in these black boxes, and that this something left them, without being seen. The marks left on the grass by the "black boxes" have had dimensions that

Above, Photographs 5 and 6: "Comet tails"

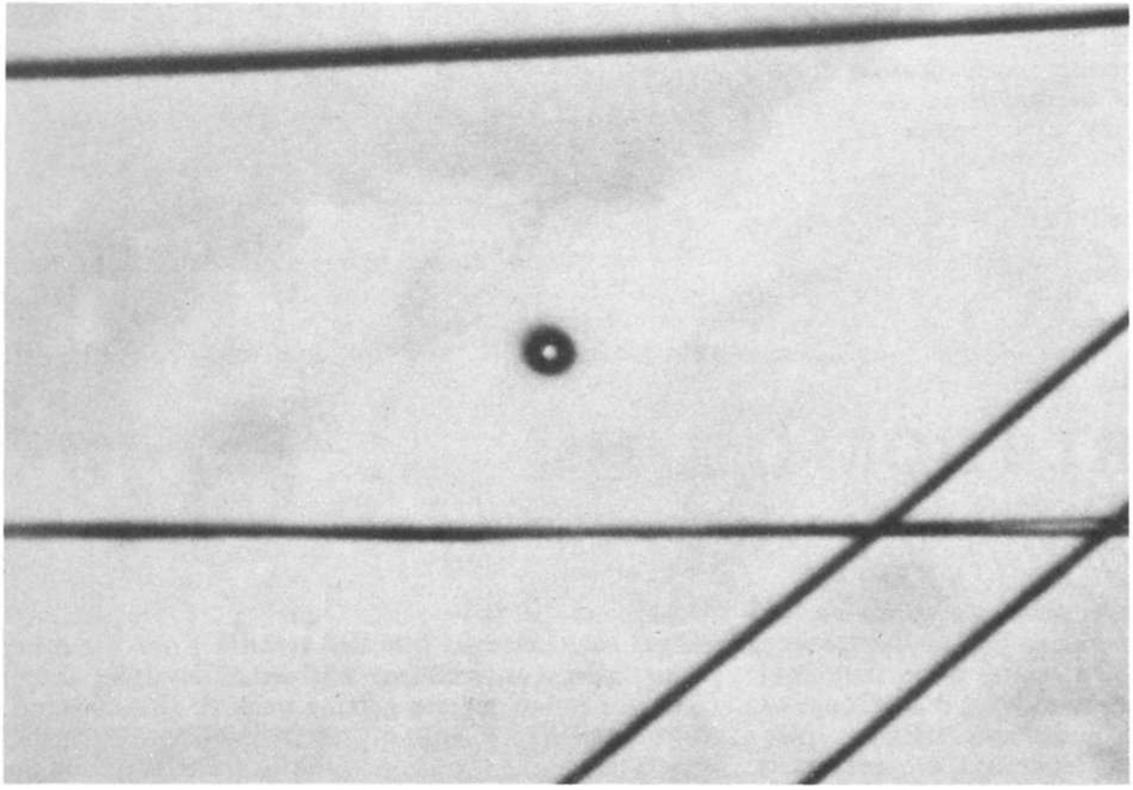
were clearly symmetrical and proportional (the sides varying between 3.2 m. and 1.6 m., although when in the air the luminous dimensions were bigger than these).

The other part of the luminous phenomenon consisted of globular shapes, with the same character and same intensity of luminosity. As they hit the ground or hit the trees, and likewise in the photos taken while they were still in flight, they seemed to present no material nature. (In the second photo taken on September 16, 1973, the sphere is transparent!) Their actual sizes, as one is able to establish this from various of the photos, seem to range from a few tens of cm. up to more than one metre. When in flight, the globes emit either great shining haloes or even "comet-tails" (see the first photograph taken on September 16, 1973 – Photo No. 5) or, on the contrary, they emit dark haloes which conceal them from human eyes. In this latter case, something takes place in the air layer surrounding them, the solar photons being annihilated (either because some "braking" process is exerted upon them, in a field of some other energy which is unknown to us, or through the agency of anti-photons). When they land, the vegetation at the site is frequently affected by it. I myself saw one circular area where a big luminous "globe" had landed and where, one year later, the grass was still not yet healthy again.

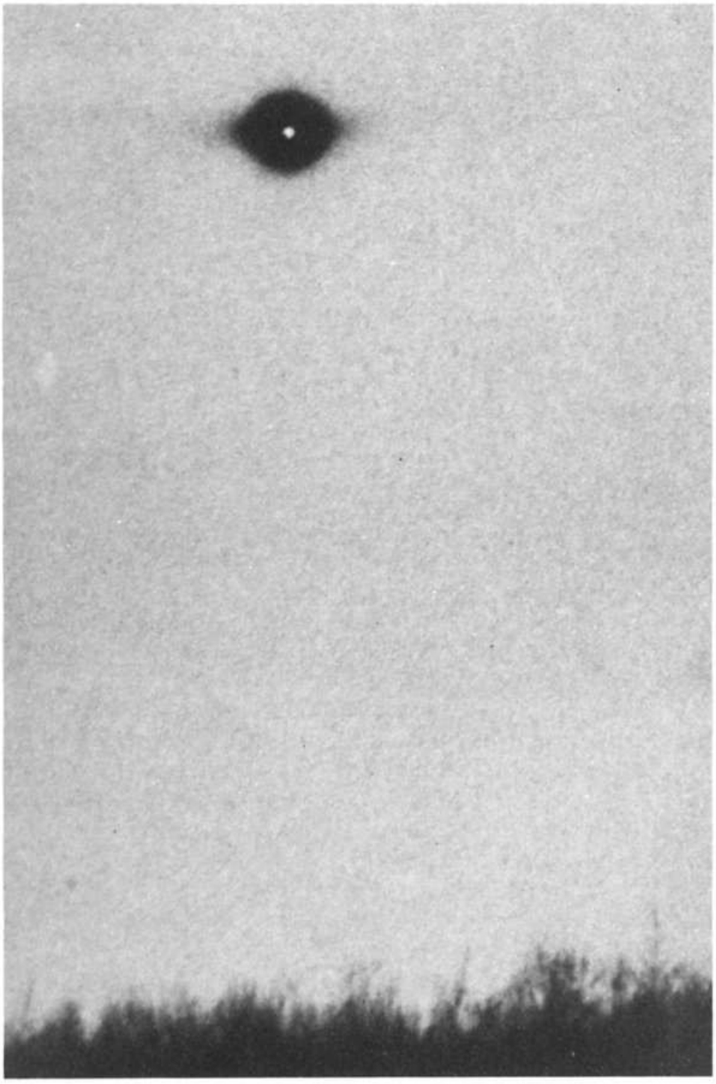
As a start to his study of the phenomena involved in all this, Sift deposited pieces of film, well protected, in the grass at various sites. (He is possibly the first person in the world to embark upon this type of systematic research.) After several days had elapsed, he developed the film, and was able to verify that, in a number of cases, it had been subjected to a powerful irradiation.

Even the best specialists whom I have consulted have been unable to identify what type of radiation this is. It seems that a number of strange burns on trees, only in one small area of the forest, have also been caused in this manner.

The way in which these "luminous balls" move about in the air, and the changes in their sizes and in the intensity of their brilliance, have nothing whatsoever to do with the season of the year, the wind, or the weather. On the contrary, *their*



Left: Photograph 7, a "dark halo", taken on 8.6.74



The invisible UFO of Cluj (taken on 24.4.74)

behaviour seems to be actually intelligent. Can it then be believed that intelligence is able to appear in the form of quantic globular constructs?

Some of the other photographs also show apparitions that resemble masses of ectoplasm, all of which greatly complicates the problem.

The photographic documentation from Cluj consequently demonstrates that a large proportion of the unidentified luminous phenomena flying around in the Earth's atmosphere are not real material objects possessing an "engine" and possessing instruments, after the fashion of what we have conceived the UFOs to be (and the *real* UFOs, too, are themselves able to produce shining aerodynamic haloes that are extremely similar to these other phenomena). In no case however can anyone claim that these luminous phenomena of which we speak are simply ball-lightning or agglomerations of plasma, inasmuch as all the Cluj photos show quite clearly that what we have here are phenomena of a totally different kind. Objective analysis of the photos reveals the presence of a species of "globes possessing, as it were, a quantic structure," and behaving intelligently. Are they teleguided, or are they perhaps themselves intelligent beings from other worlds, as suggested by Arthur C. Clarke and others?

The question of any ultimate relation which these globes may turn out to have with the true UFOs will assuredly constitute another chapter in the immense scientific problem of UFO study.

This new documentation from Cluj represents yet further proof of the existence of a wider, more fundamental physics that is unknown to us, that we have not studied, and that modern Science must grasp hold of and seek to understand.

These new photographs, and the entire Sift collection, all from the same spot where, in 1968, the

best photos existing in the whole of Ufological literature were secured, call for profound study by specialists of all kinds. This new contribution from us in Romania thus serves to underline once again the crying need for a truly well organized international study of the UFO Phenomenon.

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3. F. Gheorghiţă: *OZN – O Problema Moderna* (p. 143)
4. Review *Flacara*; No. 979, March 9, 1974 (Bucharest)
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7. Eileen Buckle: *Major Flap in the USA*; FSR Vol.19, No.6, 1973.
8. F. Lagarde: *The Aveyron Enquiry*; FSR, Vol.16, No.6, 1970, and FSR Vol.17, No.1, 1971.

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THE REPORT FROM CLUJ

Comments on F. Gheorghiţă's interesting article

Gordon Creighton

THIS highly interesting report from Romania, an Eastern bloc country, seems to be drawing us very near towards the nub of something important, and should be studied in conjunction with the writings of John Keel about "hard" and "soft" UFOs. Also possibly of maximum importance in this question is the wellnigh forgotten, oft-derided book of Trevor James, *They Live in the Sky* (New Age Publishing Co., Los Angeles, 1958). I was in correspondence for some years with "Trevor James" (nom de plume of a New Zealander who in his time had been a radio officer aboard various ships, including the RMS *Queen Mary*). The photos which he and a colleague claimed to have taken, with infra-red film, over Mojave desert, show what seem to be *life-forms* of various types, which may well be native to this planet, though not necessarily present in our kind of various types, which may well be native to thisplanet, matter or even in our three-dimensional framework. I have suggested to Florin Gheorghiţă that he and his friends might also try their hands at photographing in the infra-red and see what they get.

According to Trevor James, the film which he used was standard Kodak (I.R. 135). "To ensure that *only invisible light* was recorded," he employed an 87, 88A, or 87C Kodak Wratten filter.

In further elaboration of his thesis, in the course of recent exchanges of correspondence with me, Monsieur Gheorghiţă has given further details about the Romanian phenomena which I think it may be helpful to insert here.

I therefore give below some snippets from his letters describing something which, as FSR readers will realize, is best not discussed in letters at all, but only in the safety of direct conversation between one researcher and another.

(1) "In certain photographs which I have recently received I have seen, for the first time in my life, the feet and the silhouettes of beings emerging from something; beings that were not visible to the human eye."

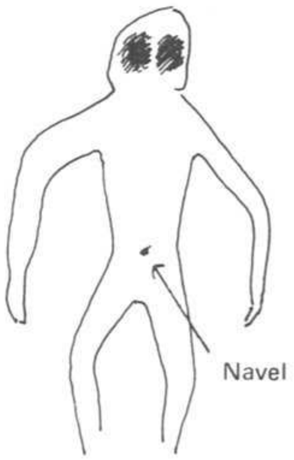
(2) "My astonishment grew even greater when, after the well-known local physician, Dr. Vasaru, had taken photographs there, I myself also secured (always at precisely that same spot) very strange images on the film, although neither I nor the other persons present with me had seen anything there! (Can it be that we are getting back to the substance of *legends*?)".

(3) "I have seen various silhouettes in the photos taken by Al. Sift – always at precisely the same spot – over the past six years. The presence of such silhouettes has always been accompanied by very interesting physical phenomena, on which might be said... but not in this letter. On May 19, 1974, I myself took two photos at the spot which came out with something very strange upon them. And then, after that, I too had (as a result) on my forehead a swelling bigger than the swelling that you can see on Sift's forehead (Photo, right), which swelling was caused by our little friend who arranged for himself to be photographed between Mr. Sift and his wife. Like myself, Dr. Vasaru saw nothing there, but on two of several photos taken by him there he got very strange effects, just the same as those on photos taken there by Mr. Sift some years earlier."

(4) "In the second book by the French Investigator Henry Durrant, *Les Dossiers des OVNI* (published by Laffont, Paris, 1973) I found, between pages 224 and 225, a photo, taken at Alberton, Australia, in 1967, in which the film was burned by a shining plasma. This is the same phenomenon that has occurred on a number of pieces of film left in the grass at the spot by Sift."

(5) "Last Sunday I was asked to go to the mystery spot with a group of young folk and their teachers. I was much impressed by the fact that, after the lapse of one year, the grass is still affected over the circular area where Sift saw a shining globe, with a diameter of more than six metres, land."

(6) "The 'personage' visible between Sift and Mme Sift has two over-large eyes, long arms, and his body is outlined by his principal bones... Sift has also secured other similar photos. Two of them show invisible crew-members, using vehicles of the same 'impossible' sort of construction. I greatly regret the impossibility of discussing this remarkable series of photographs with somebody (Sift now has more



Rough outline of "entity"

Above: Sift and his wife, with "entity" between — ©A. Sift
Below: Sift and "entity", enlarged

than a hundred of them), particularly as I have now been able to establish categorically that there is a fundamental physical phenomenon that accompanies them. The photos are shattering."

(7) "Recent written communications which I have received, from many serious, reliable people, speak of the continuing appearance of phenomena over Cluj. Why Cluj continues to be the centre for such activity intrigues me very much."

* * * * *

Whether all the strange features in these photographs (and especially the queer little "visitor" between the Sifts) are going to show up all right when we print the photographs in FSR seems debatable, but I hope that readers will perceive for themselves that something pretty weird is going on in this town in north-western Romania, not far from the Hungarian-Romanian border. I hope too the readers will perceive that getting photographs to reveal all that they contain is not our sole difficulty. It is clear that we have not heard the whole story, but only so much of it as can conveniently be conveyed through the post (with all that this entails). It is our hope that some very competent and qualified observer from outside Romania will be able to go as soon as possible to Cluj, see Florin Gheorghiţă, see the Sifts and their weird collection of photos, and get the whole extraordinary story and bring it back to FSR for publication.

Additional Note:

Florin Gheorghiţă's book, *O.Z.N.I.: O Problema Moderna (UFOs: A Present-Day Problem)* was published in 1973 by Editura Junimea at Iasi in Northern Romania, price Lei 9.50 (167 pages of text, plus 40 photos and sketches). So far as we know, this is the first book on UFOs to have been published in the Romanian language. There is no translation of it yet, we gather, into any foreign language. It is to be hoped that somebody will make one.

THE ELEPHANT'S TOE-NAIL

or The Illusion of Science

John Whitmore

EARLY in 1974 Dr. Andrija Puharich, in his book, *Uri: A Journal of the Mystery of Uri Geller,* reported that he had repeatedly observed and participated in two types of phenomena that challenge scientific theory. The first was that paranormal metal bending and de- and re-materialization of objects often occurred around Geller, both at his will and at random. The second was that Puharich and Geller had established speech communication with extraterrestrial agencies that claimed to be the source of Geller's apparent powers. Neither of these phenomena are new. Both have occurred throughout history, and religious and other literature contain many references to such phenomena, although scientists have a habit of discounting these observations of our ancestors, presumably as barbaric delusions.

Predictably, the main body of science chose to ignore or to ridicule both types of phenomena reported by Puharich. However, a few open minded scientists attempted to investigate the first, and in so doing, risked their reputations and academic status, for such things are conditional upon one's willingness to remain closed minded, and to comply with the unwritten agreement never to reveal the weakness of the system on which one's livelihood and authority depend.

Equally predictable was the attack upon these researchers by such stalwart defenders of the faith as Martin Gardner, Philip Morrison, and others. Undaunted, the researchers devised experiments and theories in an attempt to validate and explain the phenomena, in spite of the burden called "acceptable scientific method" to which even they subscribed, and managed to convince themselves, if not others, that the phenomena of metal bending and de- and re-materialization did indeed take place. Some tried, in the main unsuccessfully, to publish their findings in journals controlled by the scientific establishment, while others were less courageous, perhaps but less foolhardy.

One of the insanities of acceptable scientific method is the need for repeatability upon demand. This may be scientific, but to anyone with a modicum of common sense, it is nonsense. It is as if one were to say that unless the world mile record holder, Walker, runs the mile in under 3 minutes 50 seconds on virtually every occasion that he attempts to do so, he never did in the first place, provided, of course, that wind, weather, location, and other conditions remain constant! It is not scientific to suggest that the fact of his being several months older, or pounds heavier, than he was when he set the record might explain why he could not do it today. Neither is it scientific to suggest that internal or external emotional fluctuations might account for his inability to replicate every time. Worse still, science tends to say that if I cannot run the mile in under 3 minutes 50 seconds, then Walker could not have done it either.

Because of this ludicrous rule of science, many of the most interesting Geller phenomena could not be taken into account. Nevertheless, these intrepid scientists were able to obtain a reasonable amount of repeated data. Because their peers either could not accept these findings, were threatened by them, or were jealous that they themselves had not come up with this data, they said things like... "Your controls were not good enough. Go away and do it again," or "Give us back your research grant."

When that failed to stop the research, they produced their ace in the hole in the form of a magician called The Amazing Randi, amazing only for the number of untruths that he is able to conjure at any one time. However, Randi finds it profitable to agree with the scientific establishment, so naturally, they believe him. Because he is able to replicate his tricks every time, and Geller can not, that apparently makes Randi scientific, and as such, he is allowed to become the spokesman for science.

Randi's contention is, of course, that Geller cheats, and by way of substantiating this, he performs his own tricks to demonstrate how Geller could have done it, claiming that this is how Geller does it, which is a very different thing. Scientists tend to think that if a subject could cheat, he would, and that if he cheated once, he cheated all the time. These are wild assumptions that science would not allow anyone else to make. Perhaps Puharich's greatest mistake was that he did not present Geller as a magician in the first place, so that all the magicians would have been beating their brains out to prove that Geller was a psychic, and everyone would be happy.

Why, we may ask, are scientists so anxious to discredit Geller? The reason is that what he does does not fit within their scheme of things, so they either have to stop him, or alter their scheme, which would cause them to lose face. Scientists claim that their *raison d'etre* is to explain all things that are known in the universe, and to find new things to explain. Science presumes to tell us what is, and how. Although this is a simply stated task, it is a monumental one, and it is terribly arrogant for science in its present form to assume that it has the capacity for such an undertaking. If science has not consciously set out to become the authority for validating reality, it certainly enjoys having been granted this status by a public who, until now, have needed authority figures to validate their experiences, and it fights tooth and nail to retain this authority.

It is surely ludicrous to attempt to explain the wonders of the universe in the limited terms of

three or four man-made models which fit together. but which are themselves only a tiny part of that universe. It is as if my big toe were to attempt to consume me. Now, I do not mind anyone playing the game of science if they wish to, provided that they realize it is only a game and that it has little intrinsic value. Indeed, science may help many with limited vision to expand that vision somewhat, but to those who already have larger visions, it more often than not appears to be an endless and self-serving pursuit of trivia down a cul de sac with "so what" written at the end. It also has the sinister effect of making us increasingly dependent upon its perpetuation.

The mechanics of the leap of a flea may be a fascinating study for someone who is into fleas, or who is building a wall to protect himself from his flea-ridden pet, but to fill the pages of *Scientific American* with such a study, however scholarly, as was done recently, is nothing but an ego massage for those who subscribe to the game and who grant each other points for demonstrating scholarliness. For heaven's sake, let us stop pretending that these irrelevancies are important. It is like concerning oneself with the paint job on a bomb that is about to explode.

The bomb is, of course, science itself, and the fuse that scientists are trying so hard to extinguish is psychic phenomena. Their policy is demonstrated by Philip Morrison in his latest attack on Geller and his investigators, and his praise of Randi, in the February 1976 issue of *Scientific American.*

Randi may indeed turn out to be a better spokesman for science than it thought, for science, like magic, is an illusion, and this illusion is the relevance of science as a means of determining what is so in the universe. Not only do scientists think that they are dealing with reality, and the universe, but they have the gall to foist their arrogant assumptions upon the rest of us.

In spite of this huge smoke screen, most people, except the scientists of course, now know that Geller and an unspecified number of children in various countries, can do these things, so Puharich was right, after all. Now if he was right on that first count, could he possibly be right on the second, i.e. that the source of the power is some extraterrestrial agency? Predictably again no one had the courage to investigate this. It is, after all, too preposterous a suggestion for even the Geller researchers to deal with, and they themselves, in the face of it, quickly assume the mantle of the scientific establishment. To even consider it, they say, is unscientific. Do they not wonder why Puharich, himself a well accredited scientist, would tell the truth about one phenomenon and lie about another? He is deluding himself, say these Geller researchers, but is that not just what the scientific establishment said about them, and how do the researchers feel about that? Do they not realize that Puharich, like themselves, went to great pains to convince himself of the validity of the phenomenon before revealing it? The scientific establishment would not look at their data; have the Geller researchers in turn looked at Puharich's?

I suggested to one such researcher, who was becoming increasingly frustrated with the randomness of the metal bending phenomenon, that he approach the problem in a different way, a non-scientific way. I suggested that he put the subjects into trance and attempt to communicate with the source of power. Without delving into the matter of what it was that he was communicating with (it would be all right for him to assume that it was the subject's subconscious) he could seek information and answers to some of the questions that he had been struggling with for months. If he did not receive answers, he might get some guidance as to where to look for them. At worst, he would receive nothing and lose a couple of hours of his time. No, he said, obviously threatened, he would leave that till after he had finished his experiments and constructed his theory.

This researcher was demonstrating the most ridiculous of all scientific dogma: that a problem must be approached incrementally and head on by building upon the unknown.

It is like attempting to do a jigsaw puzzle by only building upward from the base line. Is it not equally valid to begin with the sky and build downwards, or to start with several pockets in suspension and expand them till they all join together to make the whole? Ironically, the fallacy of the incremental approach is best illustrated from within science itself. The majority of all major discoveries in science have been made either by serendipidity or by a leap of faith. The oft-quoted benzene ring, or Einstein's Special Theory, are but two examples. So we find that most discoveries are made in one way, and yet aspiring discoverers are fanatically attached to working in another. Perhaps there is, after all, some value in studying the leap of the *Scientifican American* flea.

All those who have researched psychic phenomena are likely to have noticed how often proof slips between their fingers, as if by accident. This, of course, feeds the detractors and frustrates the researchers, but all would do well to examine this very elusiveness. The equipment failure, the turned head, the sneeze, or the jammed camera, occur regularly enough at the cricital moment to suggest intelligent intervention. So let us be unscientific for a moment and take that leap to see what we find. If we assume that these things are under intelligent control, we can ask ourselves why we are not allowed the proof that we think we need. The answer to this may lie in what has traditionally been regarded as the religious domain. Proof is subjective, and comes to each of us individually when we are ready.

Scientists may in time be persuaded to look at other religious principles. When science replaced religion as the recognized authority for truth some 300 years ago, the baby got thrown out with the bath water, for religion, in our case Judeo-Christianity, with all its faults, had an essence of truth that science has not yet discovered, which may be more significant to our understanding of the universe than all the schemes which science feeds us. This essence, which is found in all religions and philosophies throughout the world, and which is available through

(Continued on page 22)

OBSERVATIONAL DATA OF AN ANOMALISTIC AERIAL PHENOMENON

Modern technology provides strong evidence

William H. Spaulding

A SUMMARY is presented in this paper of the data obtained from a time-consuming series of computer enhancement analyses and experiments, which was initially carried out by GSW, Inc., and various photographic laboratories, based upon two coloured 35 mm. photographs depicting anomalistic data, originally provided by the prime witness, Mr. Norman Vedaa. It is concluded that, on the basis of the photographic evidence, the images cannot be explained by *any* presently known natural or celestial phenomena. It is further concluded that the images represent some type of unknown craft traversing within the confines of the inner atmosphere of earth.

Introduction

A single unidentified flying object was sighted and photographed at precisely 6.20 a.m., MST, on August 28, 1969, by Norman Vedaa and his passenger† while driving N.E. on State Route 80 S, approximately 70 miles East of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Vedaa was vacationing in the Western states and was in the company of a second witness who wishes to remain anonymous.

The soft data, the eye witness reports, indicated that the lone object was yellow-gold in colour, soundless, oval-shaped in appearance, and tremendously brilliant. "The object was bright, hard to look at — and appeared to hover momentarily. The object's glow (light) was producing a reflective light on the clouds below the higher object. As the object hovered — I immediately slowed the car from its highway speed, grabbed by camera, giving it to my passenger who in turn took the first of two pictures through the windshield. The car moved a few feet as I directed it towards the shoulder of the road and, immediately, the second picture was taken. We looked away for a moment to adjust the camera and saw the object fly away at a fast speed and disappear within seconds."

The hard data from the film revealed an inarticulate bright yellowish glow with well-defined edges, and an accompanying reflective light shadow back-illuminating the clouds. Figure 1 shows the manner in which the diameter of the object decreases with a relation to the time between photograph exposures. Figure II shows the distance with reference to time

Our contributor is the Director of Ground Saucer Watch, Inc. (GSW),* a civilian aerial phenomena research organisation which consists of "Scientists, engineers, professionals and the educated lay," numbering about 300 at present, most of whom are related directly to the aerospace industry or associated with a university. GSW has access to modern computers and scientific and engineering laboratories. Founded in 1957 this Research Group exists for those who "wish to see positive scientific action taken to eradicate the elements of 'foul-up' and 'cover-up' in UFO research."

—EDITOR

* The Director of Ground Saucer Watch, Inc. (GSW), a scientific UFO research organisation, initially started in 1957. Inquiries are invited: GSW, Inc., 13238 N. 7th Drive, Phoenix, Az. 85029. (602) 942-7216.

† GSW found the prime witness articulate in his mannerisms and technically qualified as a trained observer. At no time did any of our field investigators find the witness attempting to sensationalize or capitolize on the encounter.

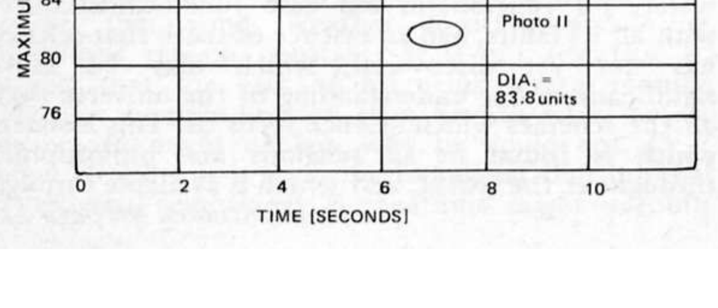
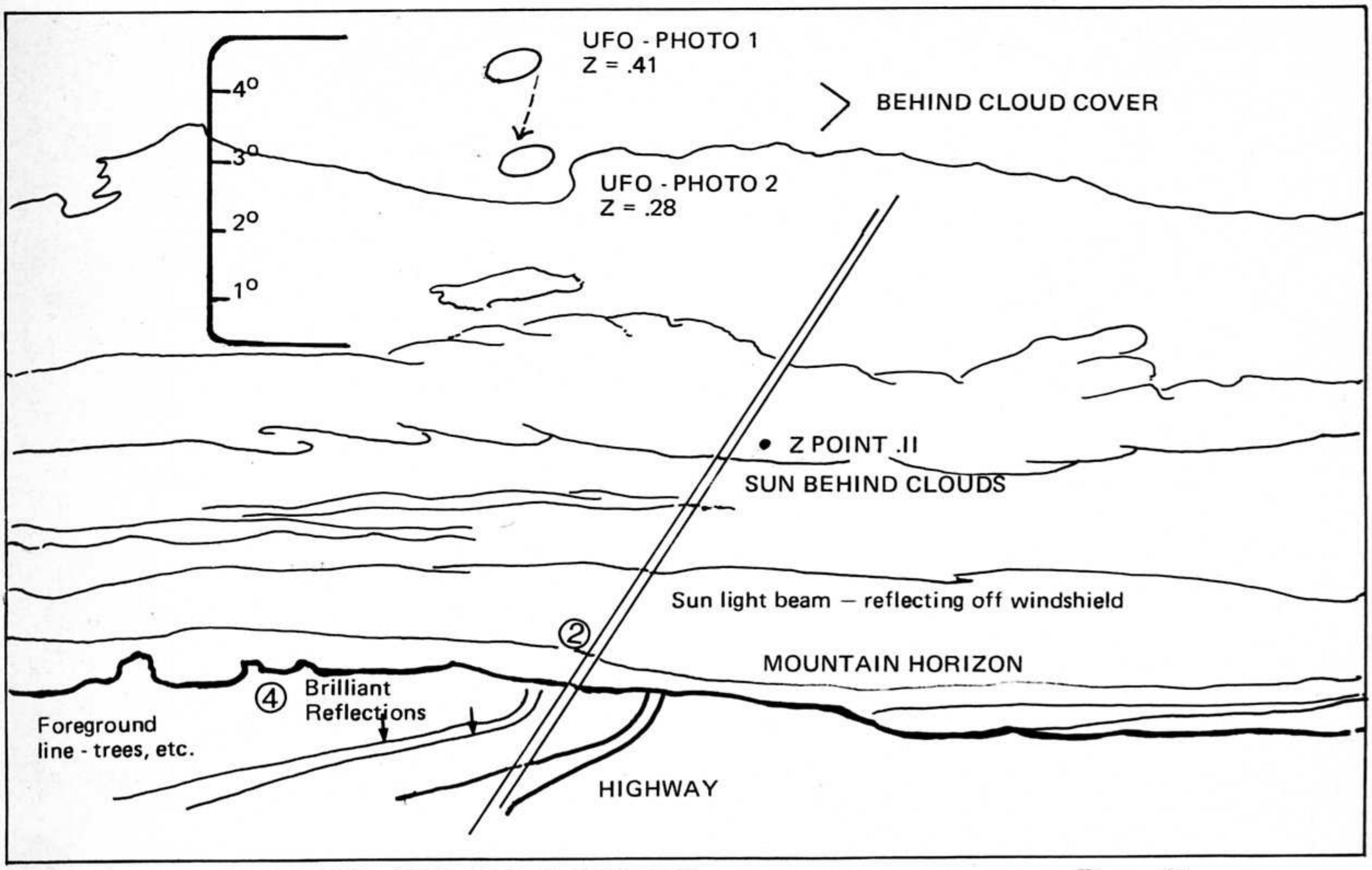


Figure I
Ration of time varying value to maximum units of diameter of UFO images

Dia. units/measurement of objects
Photo I - X.300" on std. 8 x 10 film
Y.250" avg.
Photo II X.260" on std 8 x 10 film
Y.230" avg.



TRAVEL OF UFOs [COLORADO PHOTOS] **Figure 11**

1. **Locations indentified thus 2 and 4 are reference points for iconolog/cursor measurements**
2. **Density units measurements (Z)***
   UFO Photo 1 = Z .41 UFO Photo 2 = Z .28 Sun in photos 1 and 2 = Z .II
   *** Units of density – Bureau of Standards, photographic step wedge.**
3. **Sun azimuth @ 6.20 a.m. = 75°.**

Astronomical data supplied by Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

that the object travelled, prior to disappearing from the view of the prime witness. Figure II was constructed from iconological/cursor measurements (a television screen with a digitized densitometer and a planimeter to measure the units of distance in X and Y coordinates) utilizing the foreground reference points marked (2) and (4). This featured figure is drawn like a panorama on the known assumption that the photographer did *not* move appreciably. The witnesses' report and the angular measurements from the film data reveal that the photographer moved less than ten feet-linearly. This is further borne out by the consistence of his perspective. These initial measurements were made by William Spaulding and the computer technicians utilizing a Spatial Data Systems, Inc., Colour Enhancer/Digitizer(TM)

The system described and the analysis

The "Colorado Photos" consist of two colour slides of independent data (with relation to time), which describe a UFO image, and therefore the images of each light spot, and the apparent diameter of the developed image on each slide. All the linear and density measurements were taken, (see Figure II), and compared to the witnesses' observational report and the camera data points.

Upon completion of these measurements, a three step image enhancement process was conducted, utilizing a digital computer interfaced with enhancement/viewing devices. The advantages of image enhancement and digital computers were evaluated as a useful tool and a complimentary system to the existing photographic analysis methods. The following advantages were listed:

A. Data Processing – improved data processing techniques can permit additional testing methodology to gain information than is presently attainable.
B. The present computer technology, software and hardware, must be compiled to the multiple signal outputs of data existing to aid in diagnosis of the UFO photographic evidence.

A closer look at the global phenomena is necessary and modern technology can help. The useful tool is the digital computer and it is presently utilized on a laboratory research basis.

Digital computers are employed in test applications for two fundamental reasons:

1. To acquire data that could not have been retrieved previously and to improve the data acquisition procedure.
2. Extraction of more information from the available data base.

To best illustrate how the ufology field applies computer methodology, this paper covers briefly the three general operations and their application where the digital computer adds a significant dimension to the field when compared to the methodology of previous years.

In the past an evaluation of a UFO photograph consisted of normal testing techniques. After all the supreme data was gathered on the sighting, with the total camera settings, the photos generally were given the following tests; electronic densitometry, image sectional enlargements and a close study of the Sun's azimuth and the apparent ground and "object" shadows. With a few variations, that was the extent of the "scientific" evaluation.

Step one – edge enhancements

To gain the impact of edge enhancement, note the original UFO photo and the normal radiographic test picture (Figures III/1 and IV) and compare it to an enhanced display of the same (Figures V and VI) which is shown as a skeletal effect of black and white lines representing edges and various lines of density level in the original picture.

Figure III/I original UFO photograph

Figure III/2 original UFO photograph

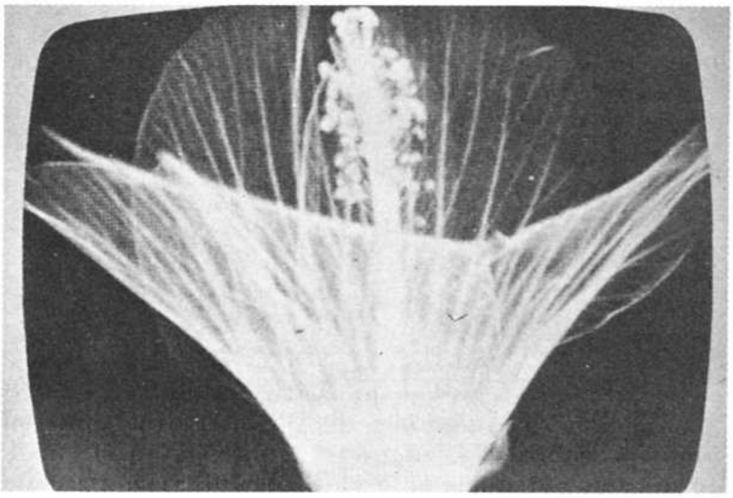


Figure IV. Radiographic test picture

Figure V. Test flower – edge enhanced

With the enhancement the fine lines of the filaments and vein structure in the test flower are magnified and made very distinct for visual analysis (see Figure V). If the flower were, for example, a casting of an engine, the same technique would reveal hidden cracks, voids and other physical defects which are *not apparent* in a normal picture/x-ray. The same analogy is true with a UFO picture, great quantities of data are detailed on the photograph. The detail obviously assists the photo analyser by defining the image with high resolution (reference Figure VI).

Edge enhancement operates with the following manner. A black line is produced on the T.V. display system when normal image changes from white to black, or from a lighter to a darker tone of grey or density level. Conversely, a white line is produced when the normal image changes from black to white, or from a darker to a lighter tone of grey. All bright and dark areas on the picture are suppressed to a single shade of background grey.

In order to facilitate the analysis, the enhanced display can be adjusted for different degrees of enhancement, that is from a normal photo to a fully enhanced one for optimum analysis. The width

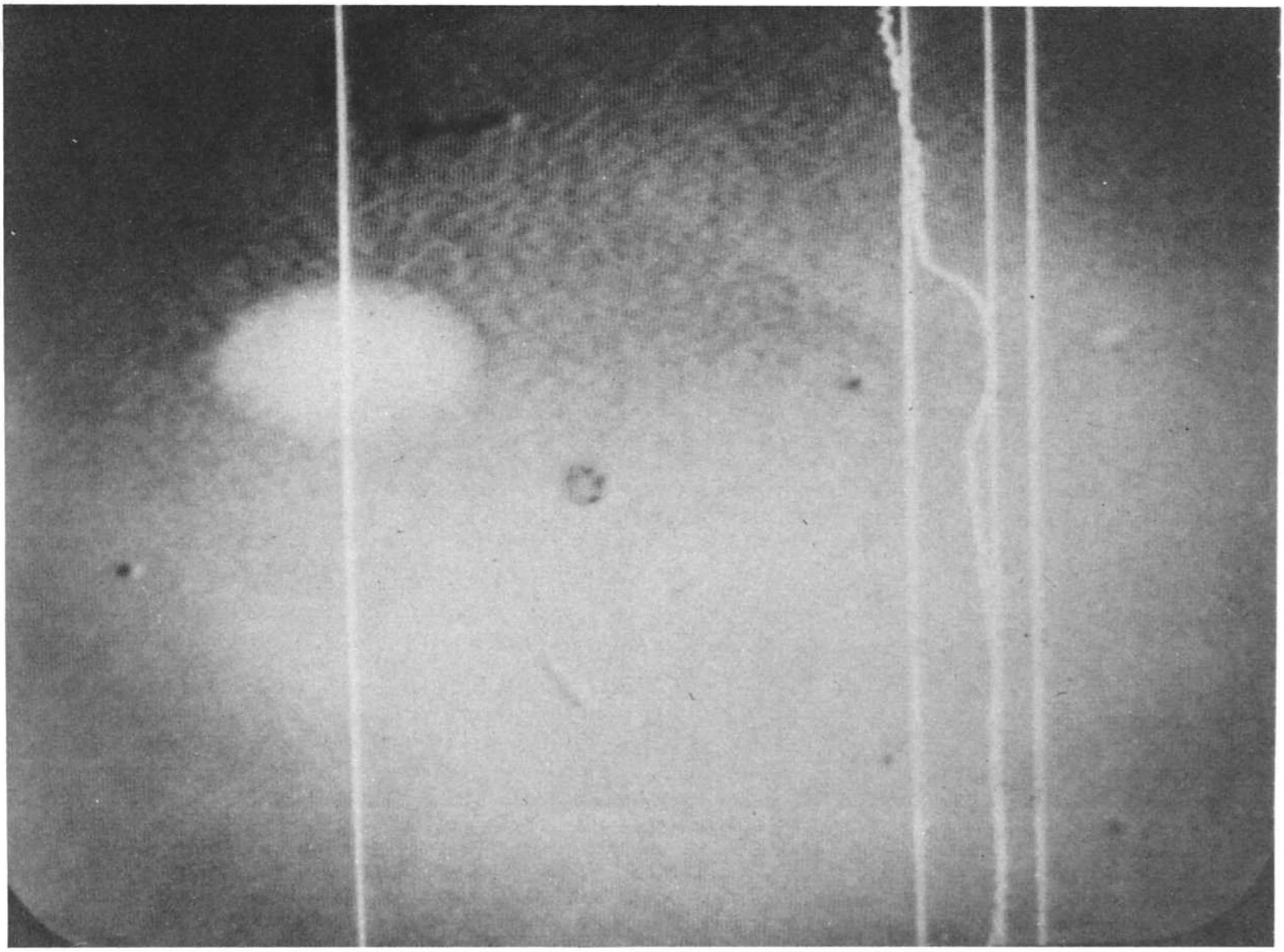


Figure VI. Original UFO photograph — edge enhanced

of the enhanced lines is adjustable from fine to very thick for maximal visibility of fine details.

Step two — colour enhancement — density contours and profiles

The grey scale of a photograph or any medium is expressed in terms of photographic density which has different meanings in different pictures. Referencing our Figure IV the grey scale values are directly related to the cross-sectional thickness of the flower. If the picture had been taken by another technique, such as a thermal infrared scanner, then the grey scale values would be related directly to a different *physical* parameter: temperature.

With the utilization of colour enhancement, the photographic density is electronically analyzed and classified into thirty plus discrete levels, plus black and white. Each level is then assigned a unique colour to make it visually distinguishable from the others. Borders between colours indicate density contours.

Our test flower photograph (Figure VII) is reproduced in vivid colour as it appears on the Colour Enhancer display in one of an infinite number of different colour analysis that can be reproduced. In this case the full spectrum of colour is divided equally over the total density range of the image. Areas shown as white and shades of blue and green represent respectively lighter film densities than

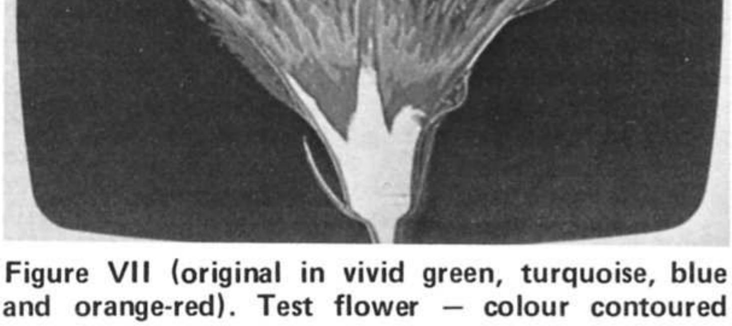


Figure VII (original in vivid green, turquoise, blue and orange-red). Test flower — colour contoured

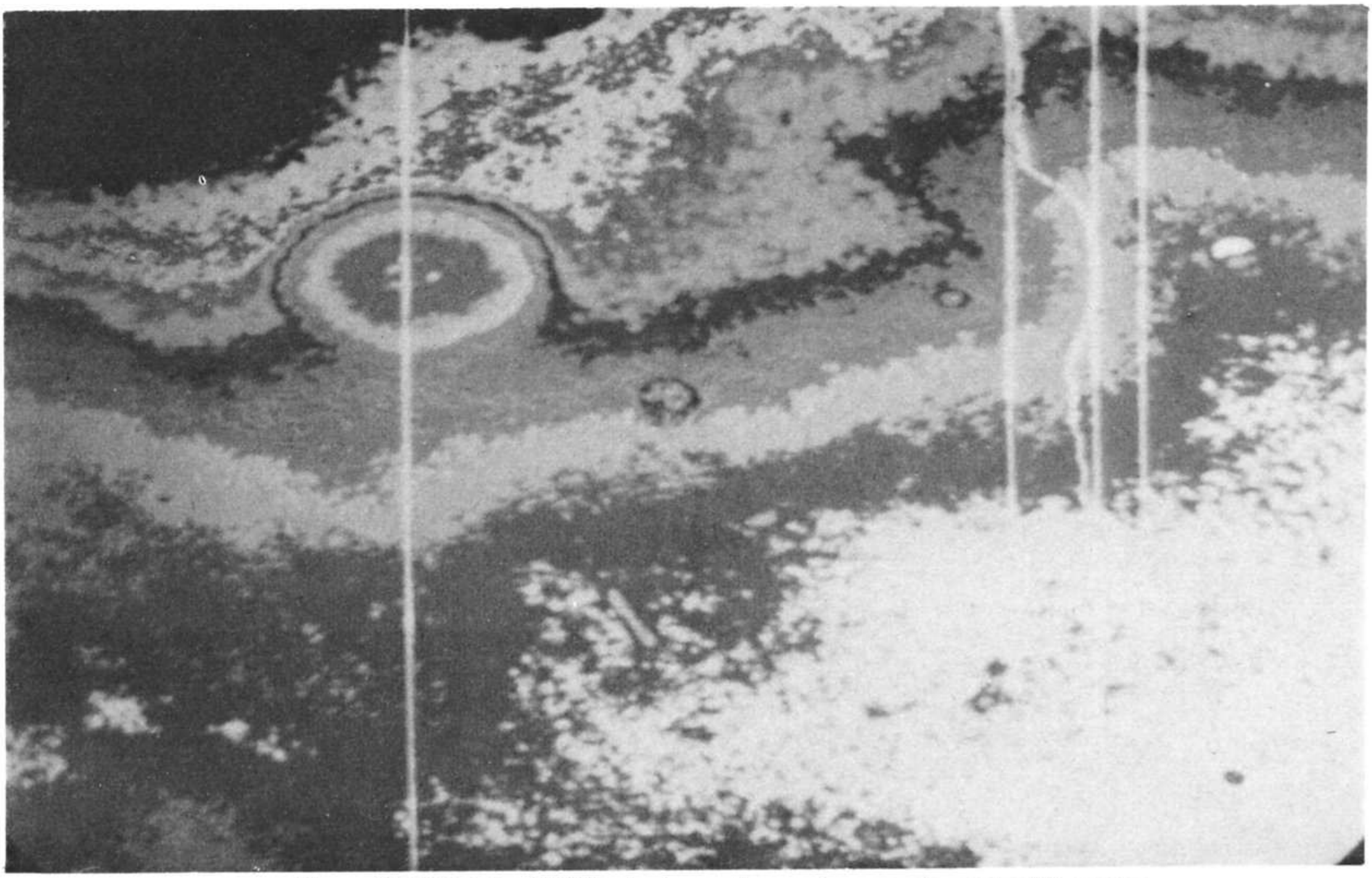


Figure VIII Original UFO photograph -- colour contoured with cursor

areas shown as yellow and shades of violet and red. The thickness of the flower is constant within all areas that are displayed as the same colour.

The technician must adjust the Colour Enhancer to achieve visual effects that are best suited for a particular analysis. Colours can be switched in and out of the picture. Additionally, the range and distance of contours are continuously variable over the total brightness range of the image. An image can thus be investigated with a relatively coarse colour resolution or any portion of the image can be investigated with much finer resolution adjusted into a smaller film density range.

Logically by contouring an image, its apparent shape can be identified. Examples are: a cloud would have a broken, uneven density; an aircraft body would naturally have a cylindrical shape with protrusions from wings, thus causing a variable density pattern; Similarly a weather balloon would not have the density of that of a metallic object. A hoax photograph generally consists of such mundane items as Frisbees(TM), camera lens caps, pie plates, etc. The density profile from such a common object would be one of low reflectively and its obvious shape would be resolved when colour contouring and magnification techniques were added to the sensitive T.V. screen. However, a highly "suspect" UFO photograph would profile itself into a (disc) shape with an *even* density, that is, brighter in the middle than the periphery, due to its configuration. (reference Figure VIII.)

The system may also be utilized as a densitometer. Colour contours are then calibrated for quantitative measurement of film density, which is read directly in terms of the displayed colour(s). This is an advantage because the original picture, or negative, can be evaluated without enlargements of the original image which was necessitated with previous methods due to the generally small image size and the larger electronic densiometer aperture.

Step three – Computer enhancement – the final test

The system in use is the new Computer Eye(TM) manufactured by Spatial Data Systems. Basically the Computer Eye is a new type of peripheral input device for digital computers. The system uses a special scanner to digitize photographs or any other type photographic medium that can be sensed by a television type camera tube. The computer operates under program control, requesting information from the peripheral device regarding the brightness of any point on the image. The computer additionally provides random access to picture information, and can be programmed to digitize the entire picture or only those parts of the image that are of special interest.

The computer system operates continuously as a standard television system, providing the technician with a flickerless display of the image being digitized. A white dot, known as a cursor, is superimposed on the display showing the exact location of the

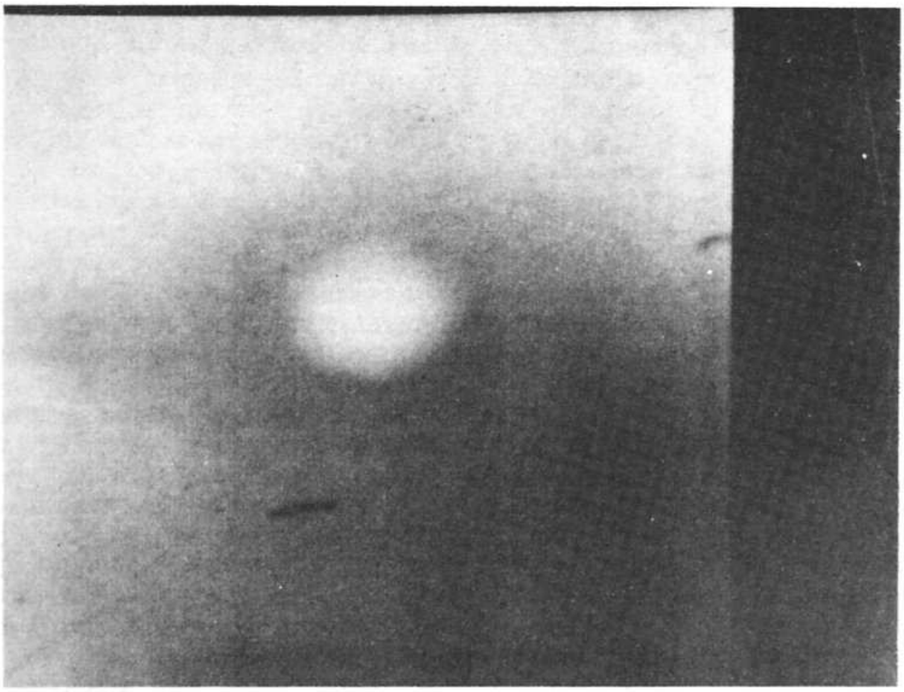


Figure IX
Computerised
UFO photograph

picture being interrogated by the computer. This cursor aids the operator for monitoring the operational sequence of the program. A graph that portrays the density of the picture can also be superimposed on the display, which allows the digitizer to be calibrated in photometric units and adjusted to cover the density range contained within the picture.

The capability of the cursor is highly beneficial when it comes to evaluating motion pictures of UFO images. For example, in a frame-by-frame examination, the cursor can be positioned repeatedly to four points at the corners of each frame. Successive frames can then be aligned to the four points and digitized in registration. Similarly the cursor is then positioned by the computer to indicate "objects" in the picture that have been categorized by pattern recognition programs.

The enhancement of the data in our UFO pictorial evidence gives us vast quantities of data from a relatively "poor" original picture. Our computer program for this type of work has the key functions of control-calibration of the film characteristics.

Our anomalistic phenomenon photograph (see Figure XI) reveals a common disc-shaped object on the finished computerized (enhanced) photograph. The computer gives us hard data about the pictures. The shape, density, reflectivity of the "surface", a size relationship and, in some cases, where more than one picture was taken, the angular motion can be accurately measured.

Finally, the picture is reprocessed in X, Y and Z coordinates. The image is reproduced into a high resolution and sensitive picture. The background or any portion of the medium can be lightened, darkened or completely removed. The image is then scanned and the digitized data can be processed into stepped generations of sensitivity. The only drawback of this potential image processing is the limited storage capacity of the computer being utilized.

Conclusions

After two and a half years of speculation and hypothesis testing, all natural pheomena, balloons, birds, atmospheric images and daylight meteors have been ruled out as a cause. Additionally, aircraft reflection and camera lens anomolies are *not* conducive to the film's resultants. The aircraft reflection was disposed of as a possibility due to lack of any observable protrusions (tail or wings); the intense brightness and obvious trajectory of flight were viewed on the enhanced output images. These same facts, with the sun angles, apparently rule out various forms of optical lens flare, cloud reflections and mirages.

I foresee within the near future highly sophisticated computer programs, with improved hardware to aid in the evaluation and analysis of *all* UFO photographs that have been rated genuine. It is hoped that this broad look at Ufology and the computer may stimulate wider application of some of these newer photographic/computer approaches.

BUFORA

British UFO Research Association

Particulars of publications, including recently published paperspresented at Stoke-on-Trent 1975 conference, obtainable from **Arnold West, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex.**

Applications for membership from:

Mrs. Anne Harcourt, 170 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

WATER SUCKING GLOBE IN HOKKAIDO

Jun-Ichi Takanashi

Our Contributor is Chairman of the Japanese "Modern Space Flight Association".* A preliminary report of this interesting case appeared in World Round Up in FSR Vol. 21 Nos. 3/4

HOKKAIDO is the northermost district of Japan, where UFO sightings occur more frequently and in more drastic and interesting fashion than in the other districts. During July, 1974, we received a very intriguing UFO report from a university student by way of a letter. He was not resident in Hokkaido, but a Second Grade student of a university in the Kanto district. When he had been working during his previous summer vacation as a Night security guard at a lumber yard in Hokkaido he had, he claimed, undergone a startling and eerie experience.

The exact location of the occurrence was at Tomakomai, a small industrial town on the southern coast of Hokkaido. As the student prefers to remain anonymous, we will call him Mr. Masaaki Kudou; he was 20 years old at the time of the incident. His story is as follows:—

"It was during July, 1973, but I do not remember exactly what day it was. As the school had broken up for the summer, I had returned to my home town, Hokkaido, where I had taken a job as night security man at the lumber yard there.

"Although a car was used in the job, the lumber yard at night is a very desolate and lonely place, with only a few dark warehouses and chimneys in the distance. As the night watch is done alone, it was not a pleasant feeling being left there is solitude. After making the round of the lumber yard, I returned in my car to the prescribed place, switched on the radio and lit a cigarette. I was looking up at the clear night sky, absent-mindedly, through the driver's window, relaxing in the seat, when suddenly a streak of light shot across the sky.

"As the light went out immediately, I first thought it might be a shooting star. But then the light reappeared at the very spot where it had gone out, like a miniature bulb being switched on, and then it began to expand and contract alternately with extreme rapidity, finally becoming the size of a baseball. At least, it appeared so to my naked eye, but it might have been much larger, as I suppose it was in the far distance.

"I felt as if my heart would explode, and then felt my hair stand on end, but after an instant of extreme surprise, although aware that I was in the grip of tremendous fear, I was making frantic efforts to follow the movements of the UFO. The light moved to and fro in all directions, within the limit of one metre, visually. I decided then and there to continue to watch the manoeuvres of the object, suppressing what was now my great excitment.

"Suddenly it began to descend with a spiral motion, and having come down to the altitude just above the dome of a cement factory, which was visible in the far distance, it began to send out what appeared to be intermittent green light rays in one direction, which I supposed to be north.

"As the scene was too much like science fiction, I wished what I had been observing might prove to be a dream or my imagination, but in spite of such wishing, the UFO just would not stop its action.

"When at last it stopped its strange 'signalling', it began to desend over the waters of the bay, describing a big arc with startling speed. Fortunately the bay could be seen from where my car was located, and I could see all that happened there. I also realised at that time that the light was rather nearer to me than I had at first thought.

"The light descended to an altitude of about 20 metres from the surface of the sea and stopped, and then (I am positive you will not believe my words from now on!) from the underside of the light what appeared to be a glass-like, transparent tube, came down, and when the front edge of the tube touched the surface that part of the tube began to glow and appeared to be sucking up the water!

"Accompanying the elongation of the tube, I heard a faint sound, just like the sound of a cicada, especially of the kind which emits the noise which sounds like, 'Min-Min-Min-Min...' but the sound was not so monotonous, and appeared to be lowering its pitch. I was stupified, and suddenly felt like an idiot! After dropping my head downward for some minutes, having been struck to such a degree by the scene, I looked up again and saw that the light had already finished its sucking action and was maintaining its position in the same place. And then it began to fly again, and then to approach me — and when I realised that it was heading to the point just about 50 metres above my head, I was frightened and felt more dead than alive! The simple feeling I had at that moment was that I would be attacked and killed by the object, the size of which appeared now to be about that of a volley ball.

"The intensity of the light had now diminished compared with what it had been in the distance (or it might have seemed so, as the surroundings were lit up by its light as in daytime and the details of the object could be made out; it was now emitting a whitish rather than an orange colour. (*He said later that its surface was as smooth as a ping-pong ball, and appeared to be white, and although not so bright it was glowing by itself* — J.I.T.)

"Then I saw with my own eyes a row of what looked like small windows around the centre of the object, which was round, and in one of the central ones I saw an eerie, shadow-like figure, and just two windows to the right of it two more figures, too

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small and deformed to be called the shadows of men.

"When I caught sight of that strange spectacle (I was fully conscious that the object was just over my head) I remember I began to groan with my head resting against the steering wheel between my hands, and emitted a soundless cry. I may have been experiencing excruciating pain at that moment, as I remember that I had the feeling as if I was bound hand and foot. But I still tried to observe the object, and then I saw in positions, slightly oblique from just over my head, three or four other objects which were very similar to the original one. To my further terror, however, I saw just beside them what appeared to be three gasoline drums connected together lengthwise, hovering there noiselessly in a blackish, dark brown silhouette.

"Then suddenly all the glowing balls, four or five in all, were sucked into the huge drum-like object which began to move and rush, disappearing into the northern sky with the splendid speed of a shooting star.

"I still remember that as this terrifying phenomenon receded from me I began to feel my whole body numb, as if I had been sitting for a long time in a yoga practice. It was then that I perceived that my car radio was emitting meaningless sounds and at the same time I felt my head aching heavily. The duration of the experience, although it felt as if it were very long at the time, may have been only 11-12 minutes in all. I could not sleep that night and was only too eager to be replaced by another man at dawn, awaiting it most impatiently."

There ends the account of Masaaki Kudou.

You may understand immediately why this incident is of particular interest to us. There are only a few detailed cases in UFO history where an object sucked up water through a "pipe" which protruded from its underside. One such occurred on a sunny July morning in 1965 in British Columbia, Canada, where a geologist and exploration manager of a mining company, Mr. John Hembling, and his companion geologist saw a mushroom-shaped object descend to less than 50 feet above a small glacial lake and lower a pipe-like instrument from its underside, dip it into the water and remain thus for about eight minutes before withdrawing it and flying away.† Another occurred on the afternoon of April 9, 1970, on a small German country road near Langenschemmern, Wurttemberg, where a retired electrician named Max Krauss, aged 65, saw a small transparent ball with a diameter of some 40 cm., and containing eight spokes projecting from its dark nucleus, which had been floating along behind him for some 150 metres. It stopped at one side of the road and projected a "hose-pipe" from its inside, dipping its front edge into the stream of water formed at the side of the road by the rainfall. It remained in such a state for a short while before drawing up the pipe and flying away.+

If anyone knows any similar case or cases, please enlighten me.

† See Canadian UFO Report, Vol.1, No.3, May/June, 1969 pp 4–6.

\+ FSR, Vol.18, No.4, July/August, 1972 pp 15–17.

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THE GRISONNE PARADOX

Aimé Michel

YESTERDAY was one of those edifying occasions when my cat, Grisonne, condescended to favour me with her opinion.

"Till now" she said, "you ufologists have behaved like nuts when dealing with astronomers and other scientists. For a quarter of a century you have tried to make them acknowledge impossible statements such as: 'There are flying things from elsewhere in our atmosphere,' or: 'There are flying things which produce huge and impossible phenomena.' Why in heaven's name should sensible folk want to admit to such foolish ideas?"

"Then would you propose an alternative strategy?" I asked.

"Yes," she said. "I propose that you ask scientists why there are no flying saucers, *granted that according to their own teaching there might in fact be plenty of flying saucers everywhere in the skies.*"

"Please explain yourself," I asked.

"To be sure," she said. "First, let us look at the *General and Logical Theory of Automata* by John von Neumann* in which the author demonstrates the following proposition: 'Every automaton that can produce other automata will only be able to produce less complicated ones. There is, however, a certain minimum level where these degenerative characteristics cease to be universal. At this point, automata which can reproduce themselves, or even construct higher entities, become possible.' Let us give the name 'von Neumann's threshold' to that point where automata begin to construct entities higher than themselves.

"Secondly," she continued, "It is asserted by specialists in computer science that its performance doubles every four or five years. Then I conclude that whatever von Neumann's threshold can be, as soon as it is crossed it will initiate a self-directed, exponentially augmenting evolution of intelligent automata."

"Perhaps so," I replied thoughtfully, and then continued: "But since that is all speculation on the future, I would call it science fiction, and scientists don't care much for science fiction."

"They don't care much for the future, I agree. But what if I show that their *present* statements are in contradiction with either von Neumann's theorem, or the data of computer science, or indeed, both? Let me continue," she said.

"A viewpoint of present-day scientists is that life and intelligence are natural, and not miraculous phenomena. But such a belief is impossible. In effect, if life and intelligence were natural phenomena, then von Neumann's threshold would have been crossed, and repeatedly, at an unknown number of points of space, and this may have been going on over an unknown span of time, and space might well be stuffed to bursting with ubiquitous and almighty artifacts and contraptions. It is not, and I ask, why not?"

"But perhaps it is," I muttered.

"Perhaps so, but if it is not, then, as I said, I ask myself, why not? Do you know *Olbers' Paradox*?"

"Of course," I said: "A century ago the German astronomer Olbers calculated that if the current laws of thermodynamics were true then the night sky might be white, and the temperature of space infinite. But they are not, and he asked: 'Why not?'

"To supply an answer to that simple question physicists had to discover Relativity, and the Red Shift phenomenon."

"Well," purred Grisonne, "I too must put my question: 'Why are there no flying saucers, granted that according to the teaching of scientists there might in fact be plenty of them everywhere in the skies?' Let's call it the *Grisonne Paradox*. I want an answer."

A.M., February 22, 1976.

Note:

* von Neumann, John: *The General and Logical Theory of Automata* in: Newman, James R., Editor: *The World of Mathematics*, Vol. IV, pp 2070 to 2098 (George Allen and Unwin, London, 1956).

About von Neumann: born in Budapest in 1903; training at the University of Berlin, the Zurich Polytechnical Institute and the University of Budapest; Professor of Mathematics at Princeton in 1903, then in 1933, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies. His main works are on mathematical logic, theory of continuous groups, ergodic theory, quantum theory, high-speed computing devices. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, he won many awards for his mathematical discoveries.

THE ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP

Based in Barking, this group has been expanding considerably since its formation in 1974. It covers the whole of Essex and East London and, in conjunction with the Dagenham Paranormal Research Group (D.P.R.G.), have investigated all the reports of the mini "wave" of sightings during 1975 in Essex. We publish our own monthly newsletter and hold regular monthly meetings where lectures and film and slide shows are given (they are open to members and non-members alike).

We have an impressive array of essential research equipment, including a mobile magnetometer. Skywatches are held fortnightly in areas yielding higher than average sightings.

We aim to co-operate and liaise with serious minded research groups in the UK and welcome enquiries. We cover research into the paranormal as well as UFOs.

New members are welcome. For full information on the group, please contact the Chairman, **Mr. Roy Lake 252, Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham, Essex.**

BENACAZÓN LANDING AND TWO HUMANOIDS

J. J. Benitez

THE UFO "Wave" continues. The start of 1976 has seen no diminution in the volume of the UFO cases registered in hundreds over our country during the past year. And here is the latest of them – one of the most impressive, indeed.

At about half an hour after midnight on the night of last Wednesday, January 28, [1976] a young unmarried farmer named Miguel Fernández Carrasco, aged 26, domiciled in the town of Benacazón in the Province of Sevilla, was returning home from Sanlucar le Mayor, a place distant some four kilometres from Benacazón. His fiancee lives at Sanlúcar, and, as had been his wont on other occasions, he had been over to see her this evening and was now returning home on foot along the narrow road that links these two places. It is a road that I myself have driven along several times, and there have been many UFO sightings, and landings by these craft in the vicinity.

Well now, when Miguel Fernández Carrasco was at a point a little over one kilometre from the entry to Benacazón (population 5,000) he heard a strange noise which he described to the Guardia Civil as being "like the sound of jet aircraft."

(At this point we must emphasise that this testimony was very kindly supplied to us by the Guardia Civil in the town of San Juan de Aznalfarache, who investigated the case when the young farmer was put into the Hospital de San Lazaro in Sevilla. But let us relate the events as they occurred, and not anticipate.)

Landing

According to the Guardia Civil lieutenant and the enlisted man who compiled the report, the young farmer turned round when he heard the strange noise, and beheld an extremely powerful light. "It was not very high," said Carrasco, "and it began to approach. I took fright and started to run. The light came close and then moved away again, and this happened several times."

As the young man of Benacazón, alarmed as we may well believe, was running along the deserted road towards the town he suddenly realised that "the star" (as he called it) had landed beside the road, and at a spot not much more than six metres from where he was at that moment.

"The thing was rectangular," the Guardia Civil explained to us, "and taller than a telephone booth, and with a very bright light."

At that moment, to the astonishment of Carrasco, there emerged from the craft two beings whom he described as follows:–

"I think they looked like men. I can't guarantee it absolutely, but at any rate that is how it seemed to me they looked. They were tall – very tall. Maybe two metres or more."

"Did they come very close to you?" he was asked.

"Yes", he said, "as close as four or five metres from me."

These two beings of human aspect, were clad, as he described them, in dark clothing like rubber or plastic, and fitting the body very tightly. They wore wide belts or girdles with a sort of buckle at the centre which emitted extremely powerful beams of red and white light that blinded him.

As the members of the Guardia Civil related it to us, Carrasco at once instinctively covered his face with his hands to ward off the effects of the dazzling lights. The beings came right up to him. He tried to flee, to escape, but the light, plus the panic that had seized him, paralyzed him.

We are indebted to FSR reader Pedro Cuartango of Zarauz, Guipúzcoa, Northern Spain, for sending us the Bilbao newspaper *La Gaceta del Norte* of January 30, 1976, which contains this remarkable report by the newspaper's correspondent in Sevilla. I have translated it in full. The report was headlined: **"Young farmer in Sevilla province sees two extraterrestrials,"** and "returning at night **to Benacazón he sees a UFO land."**
GORDON CREIGHTON

They talked to each other

"Did he see their faces?" we asked.

"Apparently no. The light from the belts prevented it. But, so he told us, he heard them talking to each other. They were talking in a language that he could not understand. And, it seems, they talked without turning to face each other."

"How did they move about? Were their movements slow, or were they normal?"

"According to what the witness said, they were normal. The beings just emerged from the craft very quietly."

"Did they come near enough to touch him?"

"He doesn't remember. The situation must have been so tense for the young fellow that he simply fainted. And lost all consciousness. And from that moment onwards, he remembers nothing more.

All that he remembers is that he found himself standing in front of the door of his house, which is inside Benacazón."

(The distance from the scene of the landing to Benacazón is one kilometre, according to measurements taken by the Guardia Civil, who also went to the spot.)

"So the young fellow did not run away?"

"No, he fainted when the beings were a little over four metres or so from him. So he was unable to observe the take-off of the UFO, or how the beings re-entered the luminous machine. All that is certain however is that the brothers and other relatives of Miguel Carrasco found him to be in an intensely nervous state. He was shouting in terror, and he begged the family to shut the door so that 'the men from the star' would not come back again."

Strange Marks

Seeing the profound prostration and nervous condition of the young man, the family resolved to inform the town's doctor, Dr. Francisco Calero, who, after having examined him, decided that he should be taken to Sevilla. This was done, and he was taken by taxi to the Hospital de san Lazaro, where he still is at the present date.

We are informed that Carrasco had strange black marks on the right cheek, on the palms of both hands, on his shoulders, and on his right arm.

According to the statement made by Carrasco, it seems that the powerful lights from the two beings made him feel a tremendous sensation of heat and this – maybe – could have caused the marks.

Such, in a very brief résumé, is the very moving experience of this simple young farmer who, as the Guardia Civil themselves say, is anything but given to fantasies. Miguel Fernández Carrasco is a hardworking, serious man, who enjoys an excellent reputation among his neighbours.

Medical opinions

After we had secured this valuable testimony from the Guardia Civil, we also got in touch by telephone with the Hospital San Lazaro in Sevilla, where, in ward 28, the witness to this disconcerting landing episode is at the present moment.

One of the doctors who attended to him when he was brought in, Dr. Mauricio Geara, gave us a summing up of the young man's clinical condition:–

"We found no lesions of any kind. The medical report, compiled at the moment when Miguel Fernandez Carrasco came in, says that he was in a state of great agitation, with black marks on the right side of the face, on the palms of his hands, on his right shoulder and on his right hand."

"Have you examined those marks?," I asked.

"No. They began to disappear after seven or eight hours. But we don't really know what they can be due to."

"Are they burns?"

"No. Definitely not."

"Then, what is his present condition?"

"He is much calmer now."

"What could have been the cause of his loss of consciousness?"

"Maybe shock, the powerful impression made on him."

So, in conclusion, the affair also seems inexplicable to the medical team who are attending to him.

Before long, so the doctors say, Miguel Fernández Carrasco will be able to return to his home in Benacazón, and likewise to his usual agricultural tasks.

The truth is that this new case – although it still requires to be investigated more deeply – is just one more to be added to the already lengthy list of sightings and landings of these machines.

One thing can be taken as sure. This case of the young farmer of Sevilla Province is nothing new. Other and similar happenings have taken place in recent years.

At any rate, whatever the situation may be, it is clear that the presence of these craft over our fields and our cities is becoming ever more intensive.

Elephant's toenail *(Continued from page 11)*
direct intuition, is that there is a creative intelligence interacting with each of us at all times. We call it God, and those who understand that this is so, and that includes a few scientists, are closer to reality than science.

Could it be that the creative intelligence can, and does from time to time, intervene in our physical systems to create enigmas which baffle and threaten scientists to the extent that if they as much as accept that it has happened, they run the risk of being thrown out of the club? Consequently, all science does is to mess around with mechanisms, refusing to look at the source because it cannot prove that it exists in terms of its own game, even though such a look might greatly facilitate its understanding of the mechanisms with which it is so enamoured.

My point is perhaps best illustrated by visualizing a scientist examining an elephant's toe-nail with a magnifying glass in an attempt to determine what it is. He may discover what it is made of, and perhaps how old it is, but if he threw away his instrument and looked up to see the elephant attached to the toe-nail, he might gain more understanding.

Religion, however, as with any other authority system, whether it be political, sociological, or economical, has in the past fallen into the same trap as science. The performance of the Judaic religious leaders well exemplifies this. For thousands of years, Talmudic scholars have learnedly debated the meaning of minute phrases in ancient scrolls and imposed their valueless findings, all 613 of them, upon those who cannot oppose their authority, but who, because they are not blinded by such irrelevancies, may be closer to real understanding than the scholars themselves.

Science may indeed be the very thing that is standing in the way of our understanding of the universe and of the purpose of life. Until we find the answer to the latter, mankind will always be in a mess. So move over science, and let us get on with it.

J.W. March 1976

POSTSCRIPT TO THE BENACAZÓN LANDING

Joaquin M. Nogales

We are indebted to Sr. Ignacio Darnaude of Seville for sending us the text of a report by Sr. Joaquín Mateos Nogales and colleagues of the Gerena (Sevilla) UFO Investigation Group, who visited Benacazón on February 1, interviewed the eyewitness, the farm worker Miguel Fernández Carrasco, and, accompanied by him, visited the scene of the happening. To avoid repetition, I translate only those portions of their account which serve to amplify what we know already.

Gordon Creighton

THE LANDING SITE is on level land surrounded by plantations of lemon and olive trees. Owing to the construction of the Sevilla-Huelva Motorway, the country road between Sanlucar la Mayor and Benacazón, on which the sighting occurred, is temporarily closed to traffic. It was accordingly particularly deserted at the time in question, thirty minutes after midnight on the night of January 26/27, 1976 when the witness was walking home along it. There is a power transmission line near by, and there have been other UFO sightings in the same area.

The Witness: A farm worker, aged 24 (we do not know whether this is his correct age, or 26, as given by the newspaper—G.C.). He has normal vision, is of slender build, has a good reputation as a serious individual, simple, of a naturally reserved disposition, not desirous of attracting attention. The doctor who examined him has given an assurance that he is neurologically normal, with a high degree of psychomotor excitation.

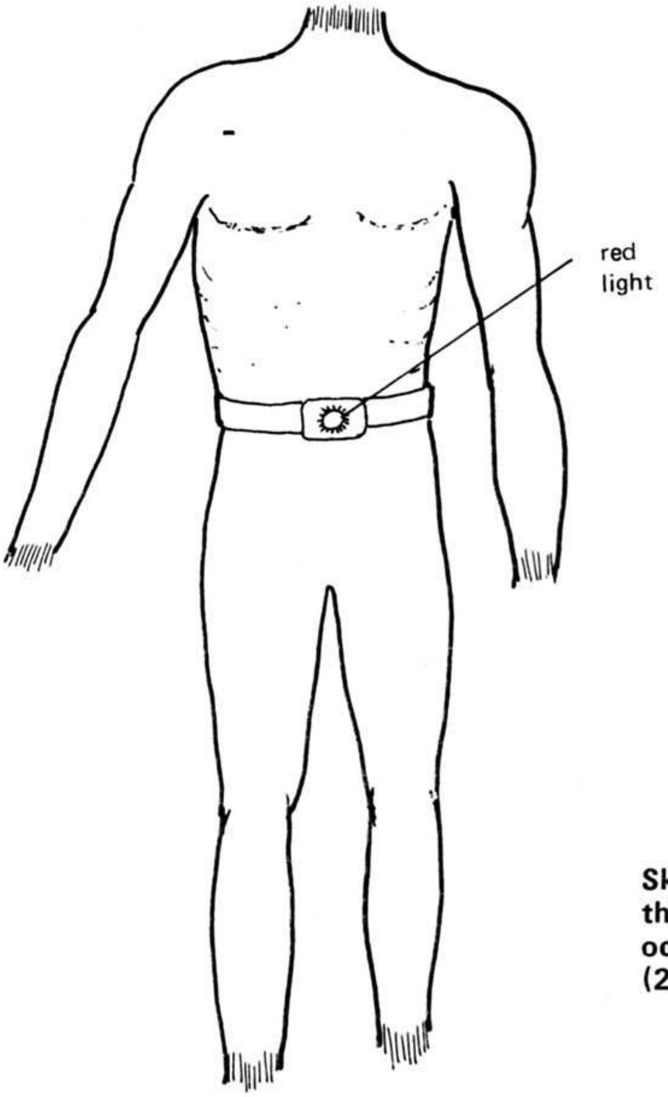
The Object: A parallelopiped in shape, something like a telephone booth, with a sort of skylight (claraboya) on the top, from which red and white flashes were coming. Its colour was dark green. It appeared to have no markings, no windows, to be solid, of metallic aspect, and in size it was about two metres wide by three-and-a-half metres high (including in the height the three feet on which it stood). There was a door in it, which seemed to be hinged. On the upper part it had some things resembling wings or ailerons. These were semicircular and the witness said he thought they looked like arms.

The object left no marks, or, if it did leave them, these had been obliterated in the four days that had elapsed since the sighting.

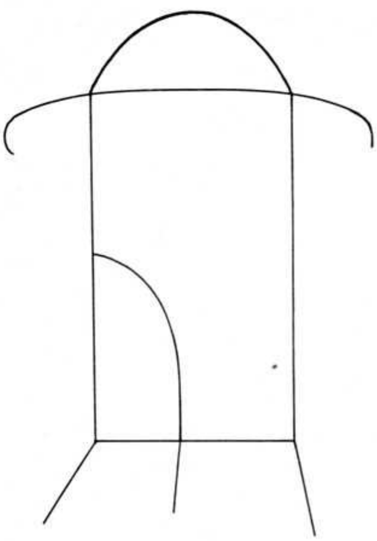
The noise made by the craft was very similar to that of the caterpillar tracks of a tractor, but louder. The machine had a sort of rectangular ramp which came out when the door opened.

Description of the Entities: They were wearing clothing like that of frogmen, tightly fitting and phosphorescent, and belts with a buckle in the centre of which there was something similar to a pilot light, which gave out soft and rhythmic reddish flashes. He did not manage to see their heads, feet, or hands. They were talking together with perfectly human voices, but in a language unknown to him. The height of the two humanoids was about 2 metres.

Description of the Circumstances of the Sighting: The witness was walking back to Benacazón on a



Sketch of the humanoid occupants (2 metres tall)



Sketch of the UFO

night with a practically cloudless sky, and a waning Moon, when he saw a star, as he thought, which circled around over him once, and then a second time, this time more closely, the time being now about half an hour past midnight. At about 1.00 a.m. the object came down vertically and landed some five metres or so from him. The two beings emerged and started talking together, seemingly as though disregarding the presence of Miguel Carrasco. He at once started to run, and almost simultaneously the object took off at an oblique angle, emitting as it did a sort of flash – like a photographer's flash – and also something like smoke which smudged and singed slightly the right side of his face and his right hand, as well as the hairs of his beard and his moustache. This detail is of great importance, because the male nurse who attended to him at the hospital, and also one of his sisters, both got some of the smudge on to their own hands from him. It seems that a specimen of this substance had been taken to Madrid to be analyzed.

The witness has no idea how he got home, because he lost consciousness, remembering nothing further. His family say they found him at 2.30 a.m.

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DIVIDING UFO WITH OCCUPANTS

J.-M. Bigorne

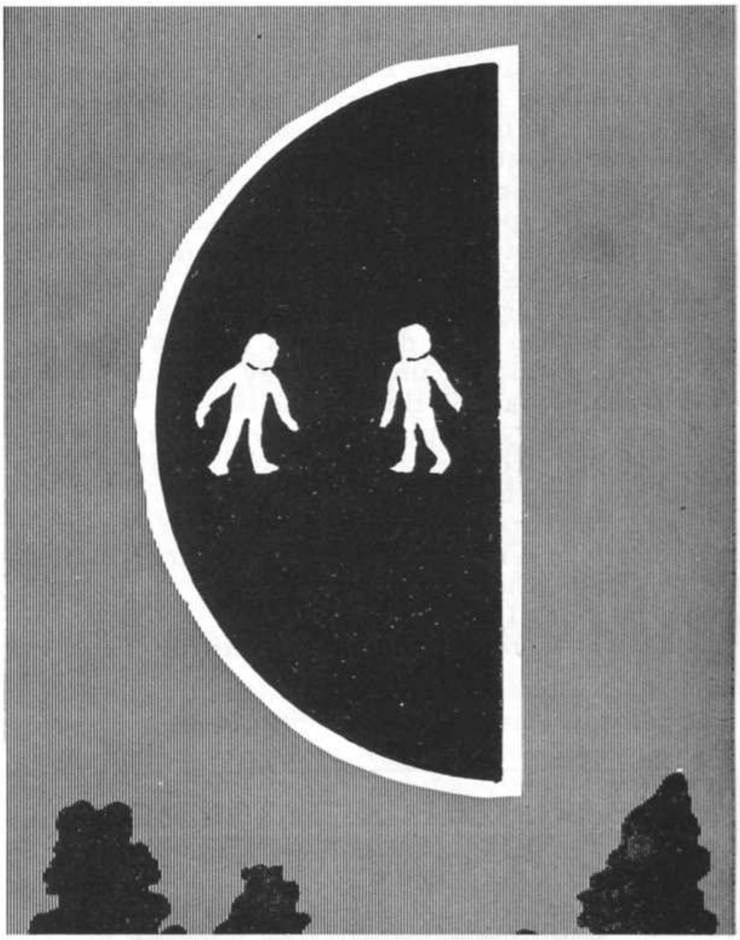
Translation by Gordon Creighton from *Lumières Dans La Nuit* No. 151 (January 1976)

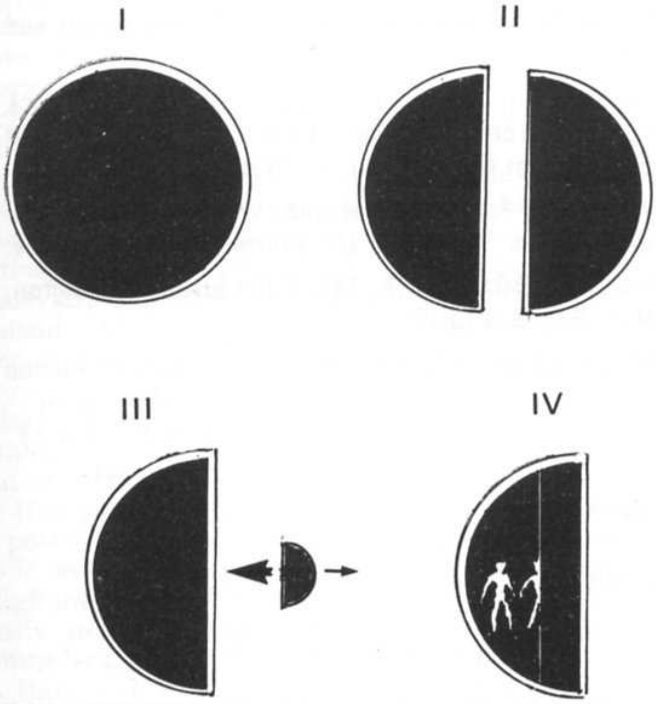
MONDAY August 26, 1974 was a holiday, and young and old had gone to the main square at Feignies (Northern France) to see the attractions. Young Mademoiselle Moret has also gone there, and she was due home at 8.30 p.m. When she did not arrive, her parents became anxious and her father stepped out of the house at about 8.55 to take a look up the road and see if there was any sign of her. The sky was dark, night was falling, and a few stars were visible.

Suddenly, at 9.00 o'clock he saw an object in the sky. At first it seemed to him to be stationary, but it was in fact descending very slowly, practically imperceptibly. However its movement could be established, as he reports, by some power cables in his line of view.

The object was perfectly round, inky-black, and standing out very strongly against the background of the dark grey sky, not only because of its inky-blackness, but also because of the faint white luminous corona around it. It was to the SSW of the witness, at a distance which he subsequently evaluated at some 200 metres.

Monsieur Moret ran indoors to fetch his wife, so as not to be the sole witness, for there was nobody else out on the street. Madame Moret came, and she too observed the object. After fifteen minutes or so the thing finally came to a halt at a height of about 20 metres from the ground, apparently over a brook flowing in a slight hollow. Then the black ball split up vertically into two halves. This was done slowly, the two halves moving very gradually apart, finally forming as it were two "half-moons", each of which retained its surrounding glow all over (including the vertical face where the separation had occurred).





The left-hand half-moon remained where it was, without change, while the other one moved off towards the SSE, growing gradually smaller and smaller and had soon faded out of sight in the darkening sky.

Then, on the remaining half-moon, a sort of veil was slowly drawn across it, from the witness's left to his right, that is to say from the rounded edge towards the straight edge of the crescent. And now, on the new background, still black, a personage makes his appearance, followed in due course by a second personage. They are men ("cosmonauts", say the witnesses) clad from head to foot in a whitish-grey metallic material. The movements of their arms and legs are clearly visible. The heads cannot be seen, being enveloped in voluminous helmets. They move to and fro with a rolling gait, rather like marionettes. They change places, going from one side to the other, as though on a flat surface, their arms and legs waving about in a mechanical fashion.

This situation lasts for forty minutes, the two eye-

witnesses remaining glued to the spot all this time, astonished, enthralled, but also a little uneasy as to what is going to come next. (What were these cosmonauts going to do? Was their machine not dangerous, so near to a built-up area?)

Then at last, as the two "ufonauts" continued unflaggingly with their chores, the two watchers remembered belatedly that their daughter had not yet come home. It was now 10.00 p.m., so that they had been watching the thing for an hour, quite oblivious of the missing daughter. During all this time they had heard no sound from the craft, and all was peaceful around, with no traffic on the road.

Madame Moret went back indoors to lay the table for dinner, while her husband got into his car and set off at high speed for the town square to find the girl. Greatly disturbed now by her non-appearance, he did not glance again at the thing in the sky.

When he returned with his daughter, they were all too engrossed in their discussions to look again for the object, and so are unable to say whether by that time the thing was still there in the sky.

There were no physical effects, or physical *sequelae*. No electrical anomaly was reported. Their TV set was switched off at the time.

They calculated the initial diameter of the object at 8 metres, or 4 metres for each half after separation. On this basis, they evaluate the height of the "ufonauts" as about 1 metre 50.

Monsieur Moret is aged 63 and retired. His wife is 57. Both hale and hearty and, above all, possessed of good eyes!

Totally devoid of any interest in the UFO phenomenon, they are very simple folk and at the same time "nobody's fools." So they stick to their story: what they saw were some cosmonauts manoeuvring, or maybe... in difficulty!

The site is completely rural, but just on the edge of town. There were cows in the fields, but no unusual disturbance was noted among them. High tension power lines, very high, run across the zone. There is a stream, the Haut-Sart, flowing in the hollow. It is a tributary of the Flamenne, which it joins some 500 metres further on.

It is to be noted furthermore that this area was the scene of another very well-known happening on September 3, 1973, when, at a spot only 650 metres from where the Morets had their sighting, a vertical red cylinder made a near-landing. (See report in LDLN No. 130.)*

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* **Translator's Note:** Neither the time nor the space have yet been available for giving a translation of this long report of a vertical red cylinder seen very near the ground at Feignies on September 3, 1973. The date of LDLN No. 130 was December 1973. The report was by Messrs J-M. Bigorne, P. Nicodeme, and P. Rauche. They found evidence of strong ionization in the vicinity.

G.C.

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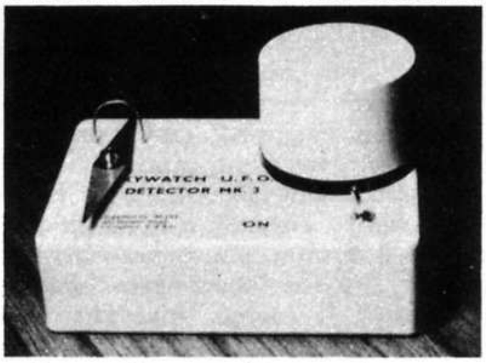

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WHERE DOES FSR GO?

Enid Grattan-Guinness

AS I was preparing to hand over the office to Mrs. Betty Revell, I thought it would be interesting to find out exactly where FSR goes. I'm sure that it must have occurred to you, while reading FSR in the hot sunshine, or with the snow up at the window, or in the quiet of your library reading room, to wonder who else might be reading it and where. Would only English-speaking people read it? It set me going through our records, and I came up with one or two surprises.

In how many countries, would you guess, do we have readers? 10? – 20? – 40? The remarkable total at the moment is 60 – although that could be more by tomorrow's post.

Naturally the British Isles has the most subscribers, and I did not count them in on my searches.

Among the rest the USA comes a resounding first, with 683 in 50 states; the state with most readers is California, well ahead of New York State, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Who next? Canada, with 141 readers, whose numbers are helped by the open-minded Calgary School Board. Then, despite excellent UFO journals in their own language, we have 110 French readers. Australia has 89, and New Zealand, with its excellent outlet in Huyser's bookshop in Wellington, has 83. In the 40s and 50s are the Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, South Africa, Sweden and Japan. Any surprises yet? Japan has a growing interest in UFOs. Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and Italy are in the 20s, Norway, Germany, Brazil and Argentina in the teens. The "Iron Curtain" countries have their devotees; and if they are unable to buy the journal for themselves, other UFO buffs do it for them, to spread the news. Thus follow Romania, USSR and Yugoslavia, and also Greece. Grouped together next come Gibraltar, Mexico, Portugal, Turkey and the British Forces Abroad, all of which have rising numbers. Then we shoot all over the world with Hong Kong, Rhodesia, Austria, Iceland, Venezuela, Hungary, Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Kenya and Singapore.

Now we are left with those countries which at the moment have only one subscriber – Bulgaria, Canary Islands, Chile, Czechoslovakia, People's Republic of China, Ecuador, French Polynesia, Ghana, India, Iran, Malaysia, Malta, New Guinea, Netherlands Antilles, Poland, Swaziland, Syria, Taiwan, United Arab Republic and the West Indies. I expect that some of those surprised you: have you had to resort to an atlas? We have lost our readers in Angola and Ethiopia in the last year or so. I always got a thrill out of each new country.

Has your postal service recently started adopting a postal-code system? Have we got a note of your code yet? Please check your envelope for errors or illegibility and let us know if anything is wrong. This really does help us and the post office, and thus yourselves, to get your next issue quickly and safely.

Have you ever thought of making a gift donation to your child's school library? or to a friend or relative who always borrows your copy? Are you shy at letting people know of your interest in UFOs? I never fail to be surprised at the number of people who are very interested in the subject but who are also too shy to mention it. They might laugh at first, but once they have read one or two articles in FSR they soon become interested. They often have no idea that there is such a thing as a journal that takes the subject seriously. So why not try and make it a bumper year for our unique and excellent journal!

Mrs. Betty Revell is a most suitable person to take over from me, for she is the daughter of Mrs. Spencer, who ran the FSR office for the first 15 years of its life. Keep those friendly letters coming in; Mrs. Revell will be as interested as I was to hear from you.

* * * * *

Editor's Comment: It will be seen that our magazines are widely distributed yet, somehow, a hidden "dead hand" always seems to stop our circulation from moving above say, 3,500 which, readers will agree is not very big. Anyway, since Enid Guinness penned this article we are delighted to announce that our readership has mounted rapidly. Let's hope we keep it that way.

Finally, a further word of thanks for all she has done, and Best Wishes to our former worthy distribution secretary who, with her husband, Dr. Ivor Grattan-Guinness, is leaving for a spell in Australia.

CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

The Center's first conference was held at Chicago between April 30 and May 2, 1976. In addition to American members, visiting members attended from Brazil, Canada, France and the United Kingdom (Editor FSR). Many interesting papers were given.

Advance orders for copies of the Conference Proceedings may now be placed: price $15.00

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Center for UFO Studies, 924 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202, USA.

SECURITY GUARD PHOTOGRAPHS UNUSUAL LIGHTS

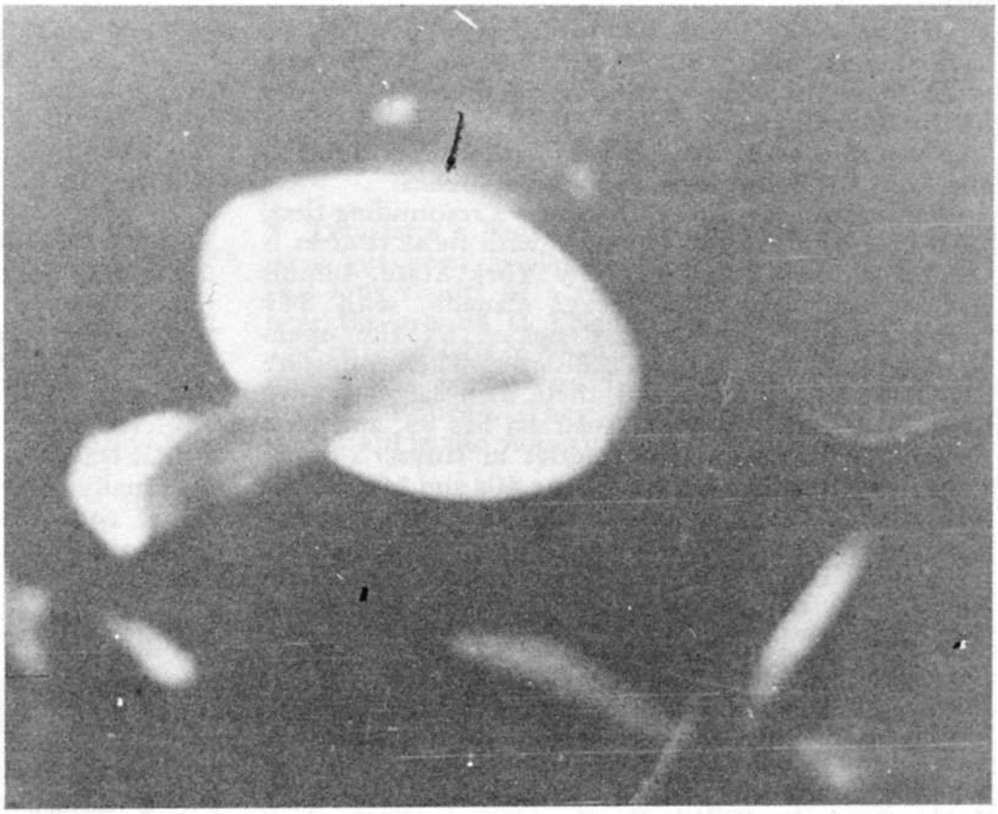
Bill Skellon

Our contributor investigated this incident for DIGAP (Direct Investigation Group for Aerial Phenomena) which operates in Lancashire. His report appeared on January 5, 1976 in a newsletter produced by Miss Jenny Randles, who kindly loaned FSR the print of the photograph. (Mr. Skellon's group is one of the many groups that go to make up the British UFO Research Association BUFORA).

EDITOR

WHILE this report has been prepared by DIGAP, I have to point out that the Manchester group (MUFORA) were also involved in some of the preliminary investigation work.

The witness, Edward Kerringham, (27) is a night security guard who lives at Park Way, Greave, near Rochdale, Lancs. On the night of May 31, 1975, he was having a night off work, and had risen at 2.40 a.m. in order to make a cup of tea. While he was in the kitchen he spotted six or seven strange lights through the window which faced out on to his back garden. The lights seemed so very unusual that he got his polaroid camera and hurried outside where he took one picture, with a tree nearby. While he was removing the film in order to take another shot, the lights suddenly went out.



Mr. Kerringham contacted the local Rochdale newspaper because he wanted to know if anyone else had seen the phenomenon. They did not show any very great interest, but the next thing he knew was that he had a visit from a freelance reporter from the *Manchester Evening News,* who wrote up the story. It appeared under the headline "Saucers at the bottom of his garden" on June 4, 1975. No corroborating witnesses came forward, which is none too surprising in view of the time of the incident.

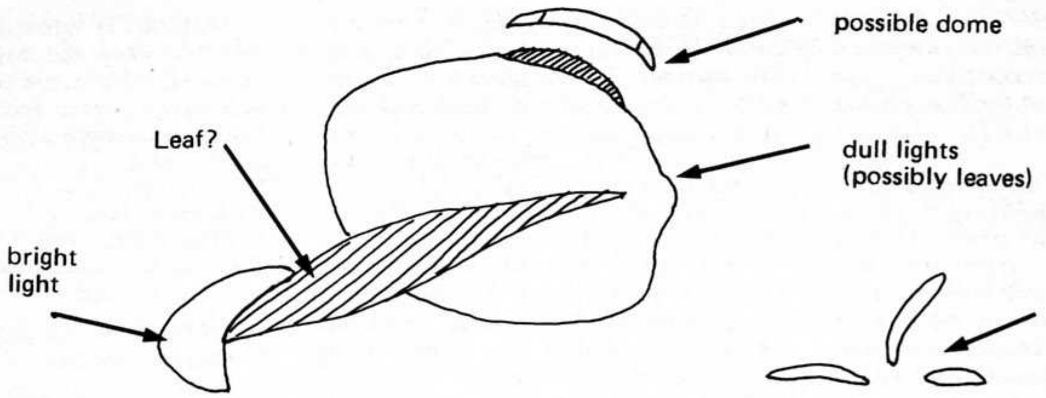
Location: Our sketch map gives some idea of the location of the incident (OS Ref: Sheet 101 SJ 881136).

Case details: The witness actually saw six or seven lights, consisting of a saucer-shaped white central object surrounded by five or six bluish streaks, the largest being about a tenth of the size of the main object, the others being much smaller. They remained stationary for a little more than a minute, though how long they were present before they were first seen is not known. They then just seemed to switch off. The direction of viewing was approximately towards the North. The apparent size of the main object at arm's length was about that of a 10 pence piece [*and therefore very much larger than the apparent size of the full moon*—ED].

The photograph: The version shown here is reproduced from the enlargement which DIGAP made from the original print, and the accompanying sketch gives a possible interpretation of its features. The overall shape of the main light is indeed reminiscent of an Adamski-type craft, and there are quite definite indications of a dome above the saucer-shaped object which appears to be tilted away at an angle.

Conclusions: The first point worthy of note is that the witness at no time claimed to have seen or photographed a UFO; as far as he is concerned all that he observed were strange lights which did not fly, and did not appear capable of flying. It was purely due to the press intervention that the story was labelled as having something to do with UFOs.

The first impression of the investigators (and, interestingly, the witness) was that the lights



were a reflection of the kitchen light in the window glass. This idea was dispelled when the spot from whence the photograph was taken was examined. It would seem that the object giving off the light was very close to the ground, since the angular elevation was low (about 5°). Taking into consideration the surrounding houses, the object, presumably being close to, or just over a piece of waste land by the side of a garden, was both close (estimated about 700 ft. away, assuming a diameter of say 35 ft. for the object) and low down (at most only 50 ft. above the ground). In view of the *geography* of the area these figures are likely to be *maximum* ones. If, as we suspect, it was closer, then its diameter was probably more like 15 ft.

There seems little in the realm of natural objects or artifacts that could be mistaken, giving rise to the sighting. There are cotton mills nearby, and Rochdale Football Club's ground is only a ¼-mile to the NNE. There are houses in between, however. Could the lights have been caused by a car's headlights, or some form of searchlight? It would be impossible to trace the source if that were the case, and it is difficult to make value judgements on that source.

There rests a distinct possibility that some circular object or craft was there to be photographed (and the enlargements certainly present a more geometrical shape to the central light). The other extraneous lights could well have been caused by reflection on the leaves of trees through which the object was certainly high, and bright enough to do this.

This case must be classed as interesting, and at present unidentified, but the order of strangeness cannot be rated too highly. The possibility of some explanation at a later date must be borne in mind.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

UFO repair "technology"

Dear Sir,—These few notes are an adjunct to Gordon Creighton's translation of an article by Antonio Giudici concerning the Bruno Facchini case of 1950 (FSR Vol.20, No.6). The recent Italian book, *UFO in Italia,* gives a slightly different rendering of this incident which, while not differing in the essential facts, adds the following descriptive details which are perhaps worth recording.

The ball-like craft hung slightly above the ground between a high tension pylon and a mulberry tree, and from a rectangular lighted opening a small ladder, supported by two planks, reached the ground. The surface of the object was chequered in regularly spaced vertical and horizontal lines while encircling the outline of the sphere at intervals corresponding to the horizontal lines were groups of three tubes which projected about 50 cm further in the same direction and resembled stove pipes. It was a group of these tubes higher up that an individual was welding from the platform of the extensible shaft of a lift. The UFO was about ten metres in height and Facchini watched it for a few minutes from a distance of four to five metres.

The headpiece of the seemingly dark grey diving-suits had a transparent mask across the centre of the face, including the eyes. It appeared to contain a liquid through which a very light skin was visible. The tube suspended from the level of the mouth and ending in a mouthpiece, was about 30 cm long, 4 to 5 cm broad, and was similar to that on an air pilot's oxygen mask.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Boyd
Pensione Crocini, Corso Italia 28, 50123 Firenze, Italy.

David Knutson photograph

Dear Sir,—I recently had the opportunity of reading FSR Vol.20, Number 4. The letter from Barry Greenwood, Stoneham, Massachusets, was critical of your publication of the David Knutson UFO photograph; he apparently feels the snapshot was a hoax.

As I live only two air miles from this particular sighting area, I would like to offer a comment.

Having seen this boy interviewed on TV, and heard him interviewed on radio by people who are experts at demolishing weak stories, I must report that his story stood up well under scrutiny. Furthermore I possess a tape interview conducted by Mr. H. Clark, president of the Vancouver Area Saucer Club. This gentleman has had considerable experience in this field, and at no time has he made any suggestion that he doubts the truth of the story.

An associate of mine has a 6 x 8 inch enlargement from the (Knutsen) original negative, in colour. This blow-up shows in the top of the frame what appears to be a second UFO of similar shape.

I myself placed an advertisement in the local area newspaper in an attempt to locate witnesses to this particular sighting. Although not successful in this regard, I did however receive 16 phone calls in three days from various observers who had seen objects in that particular area within a three month period.

Two months prior to the Knutson sighting a UFO landed in a sandpit five air miles north-east. I spoke to the three young witnesses, saw the triangular landing pattern and had soil samples from the site analysed at two local universities, with interesting results.

Two weeks *after* the Knutsen sighting an older couple witnessed a UFO at a low altitude and less than a hundred yards away. This sighting took place two miles south-east of the controversial Knutson area.

On April 8, 1975, a young man described an object seen one afternoon around 4.00 pm in clear, sunny skies. This sighting was two miles east of the location of the Knutson photograph.

This much I am aware of, but how much more is going on I can only guess. It is also worthy of note that this corridor, fifteen miles long by two miles wide, is where these sightings occur. Right up the centre is a cross country power transmission line, carried on a series of tall pylons. These terminate at a transformer station, then branch off in three directions.

It is good that we don't accept all UFO photos that are offered to us as being the "real thing", and Mr. Greenwood should be given credit for drawing attention to the possibilities of a hoax being perpetrated. However on the basis of what I have seen, heard, and suspect, I think this is another jigsaw puzzle, the Knutson photo being one small piece, and a valid one at that.

Yours sincerely,
G. Conway
11102 River Read, Delta,
British Columbia V4C 2S4

Information required

Dear Sir,—I am writing to request that FSR contain the brief notice which I have typed below within the box. As this notice makes clear, I am presently collecting various information for a book that is dealing with the psychological component of the UFO phenomenon. I would very much like to include an appendix which lists all current UFO groups, organizations, with addresses and key officials. Flying Saucer Review could play an important part in my search for this information. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,
Richard F. Haines
February 29, 1976

UFO Study Groups Around the World – Notice

A technically orientated book is being prepared on the important subject of the psychosocial factors associated with UFO sightings. I would like to include as complete a list as possible of current UFO study groups in one of the appendices. If you would like your group to be referenced please provide the following information: 1. Full name of organization (in English & in native language). Also give initials (if any). 2. Mailing address of organization. 3. Name or names of current officials/leaders. 4. Brief statement of major objectives or areas of interest (one paragraph maximum).

Send to: **Dr. R.F. Haines**
325 Langton Avenue
Los Altos, California
94022 U.S.A.

ON VALLEE'S INVISIBLE COLLEGE

Gordon Creighton

FROM the French scientist who gave us a thought-provoking little classic in *Passport to Magonia,* here is a new book – also surely destined to be one of the classics of 'our subject.' **The Invisible College; what a group of scientists has discovered about UFO influences on the human race** by **Dr. Jacques Vallée** (E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, 1975. Hardback, $8.95) supplies a masterly coverage of many of its more bewildering aspects, ranging from the Control System and the triple cover-up, right through the psychic and paranormal component; prophecy; 'the physics of the B.V.M.'; Lourdes; Fâtima; Guadelupe; the Mormon revelations; 'Ummo'; Puharich and Geller and the contact with 'Spectra'; the conditioning of *'Homo Sap.'* (who gave him that title?); to the way in which religious creeds doubtless arise, and closing with some pointers to the form that the next Religion is likely to take. All in all, readers will probably agree that Dr. Vallée has made a further powerful contribution to the thesis (advanced by FSR for many years past) that, while the UFOs are 'real' enough, it is highly likely that some of them – if not indeed all of them – represent an entirely different 'reality' from this day-to-day reality with which we are familiar in our ordinary waking lives, and that the correct historical precedent for the whole UFO problem, and the backdrop against which it must always be viewed, *is the traditional religious revelation.* (Also a thesis that some of us have been attempting to promote for years past.)

Science, concludes Dr. Vallée – or rather, one supposes we ought to say *our Science* – will never give us the answer to the UFO mystery.

(Doubtless for the excellent reason that the UFO mystery exemplifies someone else's Science – not ours!)

Listen however. The final sentences of the book convey an important message for us:—

> "It is not simply our freedom that is in danger now. It is a certain concept of humanity. And it is no longer to science that we must turn to understand the nature of this psychic crisis and find its key. Nor will the answer be discovered in some secret file in Washington. The solution lies where it has always been: within ourselves. We can reach it any time we want."

The author of these words – do I have to emphasise it? – is not the non-scientist Gordon Creighton, but the holder of a Master's degree in Astrophysics from a French university and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, where he spent four years as an associate of Dr. J. Allen Hynek, at that time the U.S. Air Force's Scientific Consultant on UFOs.

As Dr. Vallée perceives the situation then, and as more and more other folk around the world are beginning to perceive it, our species, this 'naked ape' that greeted the New Century but 75 years ago with so much fulsome, facile optimism, is far down on the skids now, and the much-trumpeted dream of the Marxists and materialists of the Earthly Paradise has faded away. Somewhere along the line things have gone wrong, badly wrong, for Smart-alecky Homo Sap. To a discerning few whose inner eyes are open, the cause is plain. For all too long has the naked ape harkened to the promptings of demonic playmates against which every true prophet and seer (Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn the latest) has warned. If disaster is now to be avoided, we have very, very little time.

What precise role the various categories of UFO entities are here to play in all this we may not yet see clearly, but there seem to be pointers, and it should now surely by our primary objective to ascertain as speedily as possible whether these matters are something that, by his very nature, a mere naked ape is even capable of knowing?

That the whole picture is immensely complex we cannot doubt. As William James once observed: "The Demonic Theory will come into its own again one day, mark my words." (My quotation is approximate.) Some of us, while concurring in this view, may also feel that *where there are Demons – and they are here already in immense strength – then it is certain that there could be, and perhaps will be when the Crunch comes, Angels too.*

There is a suggestive passage in one of Carlos Castaneda's books, where Don Juan warns him about a certain type of person, present among us, *who possesses no aura.* This is a most important pointer to what is happening here beneath our very noses.

Time is running out fast. All the indications – economic, social, political, demographic, geographic, geological, scientific – are that we are now in an exponential situation, and that before the close of this century, cataclysmic and apocalyptic events will rend the planet. Maybe few of our species will come through what lies ahead. And it may well be that, even now, certain categories of our 'Visitors' are engaged in the preliminary work of selecting the survivors. (This could make sense of the biological and genetic examinations so frequently reported.) Anyway, let us not delude ourselves. We shall see *The Four Horsemen.*

As the waves of senseless, irrational violence (telepathically induced?) rise higher and higher on the Earth, soon to engulf every country, and as the signs of moral and spiritual decay multiply, who can doubt that certain of the 'UFO entities' have a hand in the wrecking, and in the stirring of the nauseating brew? From the cases regularly carried in FSR it should be clear to all of us by now what can be achieved by the control of minds. *If individuals or groups can be thus controlled, so too can governments and whole nations. The Gadarene swine can be skilfully steered over into the abyss.*

It is difficult not to feel a real degree of admiration. A truly marvellous wrecking job is being done! Even the Christian Churches (along with every human organization, political, social, scientific, economic) have been deeply infiltrated!

For the great mass of mankind who are not – and by their very nature cannot be – awake, events must probably take their course. Decision-making does not lie in the hands of naked apes, but in the hands of Powers That Stand Above. (Some might employ the no longer fashionable or trendy blanket term '*God.*')

For a minority who are awake however, possibilities exist – indeed even greater possibilities than in more normal epochs. An Eastern saying runs that *the Light burns brighter in the darkness.* And Gurdjieff always taught that the amount of 'knowledge' available to mankind is finite, and that times of war and breakdown of civilization, "when others are abandoning knowledge and throwing it away," are unequalled opportunities to get more of it...

There is a source from which the Renewal can come, and always has come, whereby a naked ape may once again become a Man. But as Dr. Vallée sees, the process must start inside the naked ape. And it requires some help from outside too ("Grace", some old-fashioned folk might call it.)

As the planetary cauldron heaves and seethes, and as the "Others" – both "Goodies" and "Baddies" – hover over and around the mess, playing their appointed roles, surely one thing at least ought by now to be clear to even the dimmest wit among us – namely that neither "Goodies" nor "Baddies" are likely to be here for the mere purpose of social chitchat or 'cosmic visiting' with the naked ape! "Sky-watches" and the like may bring plenty of rheumatism, but precious little else.

PERSONAL COLUMN

0.25 per line or part, i.e. £1.00 for 4 lines and so on.

UFO HOTLINE investigative network seeking new members, for complete information and application forms, write: International UFO Registry, P.O. Box 1004, Hammond, Indiana 46325, U.S.A.

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World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

England

Teeth-grinding encounter

This account has been sent to us by **Miss Jenny Randles** who is BUFORA research co-ordinator,—

"During late January there was considerable reported activity of unidentified objects in the region to the north and west of Greater Manchester. This seems to have centred on the town of Bolton, though an interesting case was recorded from Blackburn which is just to the north.

"The first hint that things were happening came with a brief note in the *Bolton Evening News* on January 24, 1976, that a girl had witnessed something the previous night. On January 27 the same paper featured a more detailed story, with mention of a further sighting on Sunday the 25th. The Direct Investigation Group for Aerial Phenomena began investigation, under the supervision of Arthur Tomlinson. They discovered that the January 23rd sighting was quite significant, involving as it did a close encounter with possible physical effects.

"Miss Shelley Barnes (17), a receptionist, was the witness. She was returning home from work at about 6.05 p.m. when she saw a brilliant light over the nearby Rumworth Lodge Reservoir. It was over an area where houses were being built, and at first looked like a car's rear light transposed to the sky. Suddenly the light shot towards her at a speed she estimates as about one mile per second. Then it was hovering low down over the roof tops just ahead of her and she could now quite clearly make out its shape.

"The object was described as like a 'flat topped diagonal' with a rounded part underneath. There were two lights on it, one a dim red and the other a rich amber. They appeared to be coming from *within* the object and although not very bright allowed the shape to be seen and left a clear impression of a metallic structure. She estimated the width of the object as about 20–25 feet.

"Miss Barnes noticed what appeared to be a diffuse whitish glow around the rim, but this suddenly disappeared as the object tilted away at an angle – still hovering – and began to spin extremely fast. She had heard no sound at all despite the extremely close proximity of the object (only a few yards). As it began to spin, however, she felt a peculiar grinding sensation in her lower teeth. Could this have been due to the presence of ultra sonic sound?

"Being absolutely terrified by this time, she fled the scene leaving the object still there. She reported it immediately to the police who were very convinced by her sincerity, as also were the investigators who interviewed her. No explanation, such as an aircraft, was found for the sighting, and perhaps, as a further testimony of the seriousness of the witness, she refused to appear on a Granada TV programme to be interviewed about her observation because 'they were not treating it seriously enough.' "

Bulgaria

Another sighting from Sofia

Our correspondent in Bulgaria sends us the account of a close friend of hers of a sighting she made just before sunrise from a mountain which rises in the neighbourhood of Sofia, the Capital city:—

"On Saturday, February 28, I climbed to the Black Peak and spent the night there. On the next day, Sunday February 29, a bit before sunrise, I went out of the house. It was very beautiful, and the sky was perfectly clear without a single cloud. Turning east I saw two objects each in the form of a crescent moon but twice as big as we usually see the moon. They were glittering like silver. The one was a bit higher up and the other was more to the right and lower down towards the horizon, near to where the Sun was about to rise. They were not moving. They stayed there as if pinned to the sky.

"Thinking I might be having an hallucination, I went in and told the woman warden of the tourist hostel that the morning was very beautiful and that she should come out. She did come and after a minute she exclaimed: 'Look! Two flying saucers!' So I was not having hallucinations. She too saw what I was seeing. We both watched them for some time and then the woman who was in charge of the meteorological station on the Peak came out and in a minute she too asked: 'Are you watching the two saucers up there?'

"Soon the two women went in to attend to their jobs. I stayed for another five to ten minutes until the sun came up. But when it did come up, I could no longer see the lower object that was nearer to the sun's rising place, perhaps due to the great brilliance. Not one of the objects made any movement. Feeling chilly I went in and did not see how the other body vanished. In about half an hour or so two young men came to the Peak. They had started early that morning from the city itself and were talking about how, whilst climbing the mountain, they had for a long time watched two saucers, one higher than the other, hanging immobile in the eastern sky."

Our correspondent adds that she is very sorry that she was not with her friend on this occasion. Usually she takes her camera and surely a very good picture could have been taken, the sky being perfectly clear. But, she hopes, there will be another time.

Spain

Frequent landings

The Buenos Aires newspaper *El Cronista Commercial* May 19, 1975, quoted a report from the newspaper *Sur,* published in Malaga, Spain, regarding lengthy investigations carried out by the local UFO group, C.I.D.E.

This account states that, from the second fortnight of February until the end of April 1975, frequent UFO landings took place on hills in the neighbourhood of a local village, Valle de Abdalajis.

Eyewitnesses described how they saw the objects moving about in the sky over the El Cepillar plain, the Cerillo Conejo, and the Molina hill. The objects had powerful orange lights and were of the apparent size of 1½ metres.

The C.I.D.E. investigation group visited the Abdajalis Valley on April 15 and 25. The party, consisting of scientists and intellectuals, commenced their night observation at 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 19. At 01.00 a.m. they observed an object emitting an intense blue light "like a halo" (this effect being described as "due to the low clouds") and with a red light at one of its ends.

The observers stated that two powerful reflectors, of an intensely white light, came on on the object. These seemed to be articulate and directional.

The whole object emitted a yellowish glow. The total length of the sighting time was 15–20 minutes. (After two minutes or so the witnesses were forced to stop using the binoculars, as the light was so powerful that it was blinding if they tried to look at it through the binoculars for more than a few seconds.)

One member of the party, who was sitting in a car, finally switched on the car headlights, whereupon the object made off at high speed.

Credit to **Jane Thomas** of Buenos Aires, and thanks to her for the translation.

Compendium Books

Books of interest to readers of FSR

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Artwork by Eileen Buckle

United States of America

Ufonaut surgeons at work

The following account came to us by way of the *Buenos Aires Herald* edition of February 14, 1976,—

"A Fargo, North Dakota woman claims she and two others were abducted by an alien creature last August and 'dissected like frogs,' the director of the Centre for UFO studies says.

"The woman's descriptions of the creature and the spacecraft were translated into sketches by a television weatherman, John Coleman of WLS-TV for a series on UFOs by the ABC affiliate.

" 'She claims to have been abducted,' said J. Allen Hynek,' a Northwestern University astronomy professor, 'I said *claims*.'

"Mrs. Sandy Larson, 32, said she, her daughter Jackie, 15, and Jackie's boyfriend were taken aboard a UFO which landed near Fargo last August 26 and were given a complete medical examination, Hynek said.

"Hynek was present last month in Fargo when Mrs. Larson was hypnotized and questioned about the incident by Leo Sprinkle of the University of Wyoming.

"Mrs. Larson said they were driving on a highway, 40 miles west of Fargo, when they heard a loud noise and saw 'a series of eight to ten glowing, round objects lined up in the sky, descending toward earth.'

"Frightened, she stopped the car. After the objects disappeared, she drove to a nearby service station and discovered it was an hour later than she thought.

"Under hypnosis Mrs. Larson said a creature 'with elastic bandages for a head, or elastic bandages around its head' subjected her and her daughter's boyfriend to 'a complete medical examination stripped naked and all parts of the body examined...even our heads were opened and all parts of our brains looked at...we were dissected like frogs.'

"Hynek said the daughter felt like she was 'left stranded in a field. She lost track of what had happened to the others.'

"The boyfriend was not hypnotized and declined to be identified." (UP)

Credit to: **Miss Jane Thomas** of Buenos Aires.

Readers' Reports

Encounter at Little Houghton

Dear Sir,—I recently read in FSR a reference to Oscar A Galindez's story, "A New Teleportation Near Cordoba",* and this reminded me of a story told to me by a friend Miss A. of an experience that her brother P.† had in the autumn of 1973. The As are an immigrant Italian family living in Bedford. P. is now 23 years of age and a law abiding citizen. He is honest and down-to-earth in his outlook on life and has a steady job in engineering, his main interest being cars. He does not read much or follow intellectual pursuits. He is extremely reluctant and embarrassed to discuss his experience with anyone. It took two or three hours of persuasion before he felt that he could talk without being ridiculed, and I don't think he would respond to being interviewed by strangers. I send you the following report for the record:—

One Saturday night in September, 1973, P. went to a dance at Northampton, which is 21 miles from Bedford along the A428. He returned alone at 2.00 a.m., noticing the time on the clock of a village church that he passed on his left. He does not remember the name of the village, but there is only one with a church in this position, Little Houghton, the first village on the road from Northampton to Bedford. Here he slowed down for what he first thought were the headlights of an approaching car. Suddenly he was blinded by a single, very bright white light straight in front of the windscreen. He remembered no more after that until 7.00 a.m. when he found himself walking along Bromham bridge which is about two miles out of Bedford.

His coat and shoes were wet through, as thought he had walked through long grass. He also remembered feeling very refreshed and wide awake, as though he had had a long rest. He made his way to a friend's house and asked him to drive him slowly back along the Northampton road as he couldn't remember where he had left his car. He can't remember the exact field where the car was finally located, but he does remember that it was near a turn-off from the main road, signposted to the village of Olney. There are three or four of these side roads leading directly to Olney, situated along six or seven miles of the central part of the route. The car was found in the middle of a ploughed field. The gate was shut and no tracks from the car led from it. A farmer towed it out with his tractor later that morning. The car was found to be carefully locked up and the keys were in P.'s pocket. There were no marks or scratches on the car.

He didn't tell his parents what had happened but excused himself by saying he had stayed with his friend after a very late night at the dance. He remembered nothing afterwards of what happened during the five missing hours and told nobody the story until a year later. Meanwhile, he dismissed the occurrence from his mind. On the occasion of a wedding he drank too much and became moody and almost violent. His sister asked him what was wrong. He then divulged the story to her, making her promise not to tell anyone. He said that he had suddenly remembered it and its strangeness had registered on him. (He previously dismissed it as an automobile accident — he could think of no other explanation.) Now he wondered what really might have happened, and if it would happen again. His sister said he seemed frightened, and a week or so later when I spoke to him he said that he felt very confused and disconcerted at the time.

Since then the matter has not been discussed again, and another year has passed since I took down the first report, so I must apologise for not sending it to you more promptly.

Miss E.C. Hargreaves
Copper Cottage, Ravensden,
Bedford.

* Vol. 19 No.3

† Name and address was supplied but is withheld from publication by request — EDITOR.

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